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Senator: US troop drawdown in Afghanistan coming

BY TAMEEM AKHGAR
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said Monday that President Donald Trump will announce an American troop drawdown from Afghanistan this week that will likely begin next year.

Speaking from the Afghan capital of Kabul, Graham, R-S.C., said the president could reduce troop numbers to 8,600, down from the current estimated 12,000.

"The Afghan security forces are getting more capable," said Graham. "As they achieve capability, the number of U.S. forces necessary can go down."

Despite his past reluctance to embrace a troop withdrawal, Graham said he supports Trump's expected drawdown. That's because Graham said 8,600 U.S. troops would be sufficient to guarantee "Afghanistan never becomes a launching pad for another attack against the United States' homeland."

Graham said America's withdrawal from Afghanistan must be "condition-based" and that the Taliban must keep the promises they've made during talks.

"It's our goal to withdraw our forces, but it is our ultimate goal to do it in a sustainable fashion so we don't have to come back and we don't undercut our prestige and our standing all over the world," he said.

It wasn't clear from Graham's comments when or if the U.S. would withdraw all of its forces completely.

The Taliban have said any peace agreement must include getting all American troops out of the country.

Recently resumed peace negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban were "paused" again after an attack Wednesday outside Bagram Air Field, north of Kabul. The attack killed two Afghans and wounded 70 others. Five international coalition troops from the U.S. and the country of Georgia

SEE GRAHAM ON PAGE 5

Curfew permanently lifted for US service members in S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL AND MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Gen. Robert Abrams permanently ended the hugely unpopular 1-to-5 a.m. curfew for U.S. service members in South Korea on Tuesday after a six-month suspension proved successful.

The commander of U.S. Forces Korea made the decision after assessing the number and the types of incidents involving troops since the curfew was lifted temporarily on June 17, according to a news release.

Abrams also consulted with other military leaders and unit commanders, who were asked to recommend whether to reimpose the curfew, to continue the suspension or to end it.

"All recommended its termination," he said in the statement released Tuesday, stressing the need to maintain order and discipline in line with USFK regulations.

"Leaders are responsible for our service members' on-and-off-post conduct; we are ambassadors of USFK, the United States and the U.S.-[South Korea] alliance to the Korean people," he added. "We have a solemn responsibility to keep readiness at its highest levels with a 'fight tonight' posture, approach and mentality."

Abrams first announced a three-month curfew suspension on June 17 as a test for some 28,500 American troops stationed on

SEE CURFEW ON PAGE 4

Airmen from the 51st Fighter Wing enjoy drinks at a bar just outside Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Saturday.

MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes



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EUROPE

Battle of the Bulge vets, war dead honored

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and European leaders gathered Monday at the Luxembourg American Cemetery to honor those killed in the Battle of the Bulge and to thank veterans on hand to mark the 75th anniversary of the pivotal battle.

Before approaching the vets to shake hands, Esper addressed the crowd and the men.

"For a moment in history, the fate of the free world rested on their shoulders — rested on your shoulders," Esper said.

The winter battle was the largest and costliest of the war for the United States, fought over six weeks in the forests and towns of Belgium and Luxembourg, where allies were outnumbered in a surprise offensive by German forces.

The American soldiers held the line, buying time for reinforcements. More than 19,000 U.S. troops died in the fighting, and more than 5,000 of the war dead are buried at the cemetery in Luxembourg. Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., who commanded the 3rd Army during the Bulge campaign, is also buried there.

"Your stories are remarkable and we will forever be grateful for the sacrifices you made," Esper said. The U.S. soldiers took a "gallant stand against tyranny" as they fought Germany's last major offensive on the Western Front, he said.

The soldiers fought through setbacks and the bitter cold, despite being low on supplies and poorly equipped for freezing conditions. The men knew hardship, having lived through the Great Depression, and brought that grit to the battlefield, Esper said.

"The real story of the Battle of the Bulge are the soldiers who banded together," Esper said.

Included in the U.S. delegation attending the ceremony in Luxembourg were House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Events in Luxembourg capped four days of international commemorations of the battle.

U.S. F-16s flew over the cemetery grounds in honor of the air power that helped turn the tide in the battle and paved the way for victory.

Henri, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, said the soldiers' "exceptional bravery" ensured the "freedom of our countries, democracy and the rule of law."

"We are indebted and eternally grateful to them," he said.

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Helen Patton, granddaughter of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., talks to Battle of the Bulge veterans before the commemorations at the Luxembourg American Cemetery marking the 75th anniversary of the battle Monday. The general is buried at the cemetery.



Battle of the Bulge veteran Robert Izumi, a Japanese-American, stayed in Germany after the war and served in Patton's unit.



U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper talks to veterans after laying a wreath at the commemorations marking the anniversary.

Turkish leader says he could close Incirlik over sanctions

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Turkey is prepared to kick the U.S. military out of Incirlik Air Base if Washington imposes sanctions on the country, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, raising the stakes after a similar warning was made last week by Turkey's foreign minister.

"We will close down Incirlik if necessary," Erdogan said Sunday on Turkey's A Haber news program.

The U.S. has about 50 nuclear bombs stored at Incirlik, which watchdog groups have raised security concerns about. President Donald Trump said earlier this year he is confident the weapons are safe at the base.

Erdogan also said a U.S. Army site in the small Turkish village of Kurecik, which houses a radar for NATO missile defense efforts in Europe, could also be closed down. "If they are threatening us with these sanctions, of course we will be retaliating," he said.

Erdogan's warnings come a week after a U.S. Senate committee backed legislation calling for economic sanctions after Turkey acquired Russia's S-400 missile defense system and over Ankara's incursion into northern Syria.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu last week also blasted the action by U.S. lawmakers and warned Ankara would consider cutting off access to Incirlik and Kurecik if economic penalties were imposed.

Tensions between the U.S.

and Turkey have been fraught in recent years. Turkey has already been removed from the Pentagon's F-35 program amid concerns that its operation of Russian air defenses could compromise the fifth-generation aircraft's stealth technology. Turkey had planned to buy more than 100 F-35s.

Incirlik, a strategic base that dates to the early days of the Cold War, has played a role in U.S. operations against Islamic State.

While U.S. lawmakers in Con-

gress have been critical of Erdogan and are calling for sanctions against the country, Trump has given no indication that he intends to move forward with penalties.

Earlier this month, Trump praised Erdogan and said Turkey was doing a good job in its military operation in northern Syria, putting the U.S. president at odds with Pentagon leaders who have been critical of the Turkish incursion.

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PACIFIC



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

U.S. service members and locals walk through an entertainment district just outside Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Saturday. A 1-5 a.m. curfew GIs said was a morale killer has been permanently lifted.

Curfew: Restriction first imposed after 9/11

FROM FRONT PAGE

the divided peninsula. He extended the suspension for three more months on Sept. 17, saying he need more time before making it permanent.

Initially imposed after the 9/11 attacks, the curfew, which requires that troops be on base, in their residences or in hotel rooms during the specified hours, has long been an unpopular feature of military life for all branches in South Korea.

Troops said it was a morale killer.

"We are already forced to be away from our families. Why restrict us to just our rooms?" Cpl. Andrew Sudler, 22, of Dover, Del., said Saturday while out with friends at a bar near Osan Air Base. "That kind of goes along with the depression problem. They've had problems with suicides here. Why coop us up in our rooms if we are already forced to be away from our family and alone by ourselves?"

Pvt. Lydia Wombacher, 19, of Warrenton, Mo., said she doesn't think that all soldiers should suffer because of the actions of a few bad apples.

"There have been some problems, but it's a very small minority of people," she said Monday at Camp Humphreys. "I don't think

it's fair that those people who do what they're supposed to should be affected by people that don't.

"I feel like nothing good happens after 1 a.m. anyway," she said. "But we're adults. We signed up (for the Army), and I feel like we should be able to make those decisions."

Officials said reported problems during the curfew suspension period mainly involved fistfights between soldiers and some issues with taxis.

"We continue to be disappointed with the actions of a few individuals, mainly soldiers going out and getting into fights at night," provost marshal Col. John Fivian told Stars and Stripes on Monday at USFK headquarters at Camp Humphreys.

He said problems were more noticeable in South Korea because troops who get into trouble are usually turned over to their command; in the U.S. they would be dealt with by local authorities.

Former USFK commander Gen. Walter Sharp briefly rescinded the curfew in July 2010, saying, "I believe that we can trust our service members to do the right thing."

It was reinstated after several months amid outrage over two high-profile rape cases involving American soldiers. The curfew

was extended indefinitely in its recent form in January 2012.

It applied to all service members in South Korea except for those attached to the U.S. Embassy or the Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group-Korea.

Many soldiers said the lifting of the curfew would allow more freedom to do activities such as shopping at night markets in Seoul and traveling.

"I think soldiers should have more time to explore Korea at nighttime," said Pvt. Tayde Creeks, 19, of Dallas, who joined the U.S. in January and arrived in South Korea in June for her assignment with the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion.

Pfc. Elliot Vizcarondo, 29, a 2nd Infantry Division soldier from the Dominican Republic, said the curfew sometimes caused problems because people felt a need to drink a lot in a short amount of time.

"It's having the freedom to be able to make the decisions that we want," he said Saturday. "Either here, or in the States, a bad decision is a bad decision regardless of how late you are out."

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US envoy rejects nuclear deadline set by N. Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A senior U.S. diplomat said Monday that Washington won't accept a year-end deadline set by North Korea to make concessions in stalled nuclear talks and urged Pyongyang to return to negotiations immediately.

"On this point, let me be absolutely clear: The United States does not have a deadline," Stephen Biegun, the U.S. special representative for North Korea, told reporters. "We are fully aware of the strong potential for North Korea to conduct a major provocation in the days ahead. To say the least, such an action will be most unhelpful in achieving lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula."

Biegun, who was in Seoul for talks with South Korean officials, called on North Korea to sit down for talks.

"Let me speak directly to our counterparts in North Korea: It is time for us to do our jobs. Let's get this done. We are here. And you know how to reach us," he said.

Biegun later held separate meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Biegun said the Trump administration wouldn't give up on seeking diplomatic progress with North Korea, but it did not elaborate.

It's unclear if North Korea will reach out to the U.S. to resolve their widening differences on

how to achieve North Korean denuclearization. Senior North Korean officials have recently said denuclearization is already off the negotiating table and have threatened to lift a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests. In past months, North Korea has also conducted a slew of short-range missile and other weapons tests.

Worries about a major North Korean provocation grew after the country said Saturday that it had successfully performed an unspecified "crucial test" that will strengthen its nuclear deterrent. Experts say the North could launch a satellite-carrying rocket or an intercontinental ballistic missile if the U.S. fails to meet the year-end deadline.

Friday's test was the second in a week at a rocket facility where North Korea has conducted missile engine tests and launched satellites in what the United Nations called over for testing its long-range missile technology.

North Korea's military chief, Pak Jong Chon, asserted Saturday that the North has built up "tremendous power" and that the findings from the recent tests would be used to develop new weapons to allow the country to "definitely and reliably" counter U.S. nuclear threats.

The test flight of an ICBM would likely derail diplomatic efforts as President Donald Trump has vowed the North Korean weapons test moratorium as a major foreign policy achievement. Biegun called the latest North Korean statements "so hostile and negative and so unnecessary."



LEE JIN-WOON, YONHAP/AP

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, left, shakes hands with U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun during a meeting in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. Moon's office said Biegun said the Trump administration wouldn't give up on seeking diplomatic progress with North Korea.

Pentagon's top Asia policy official resigning

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon says its top Asia policy official is resigning after two years in the job.

The top Pentagon spokesman, Jonathan Hoffman, told reporters Thursday that Randall Schriver, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs since January 2018, confirmed to

him that he is leaving the job.

Hoffman did not offer a specific reason for Schriver's decision to resign but suggested that the requirement for frequent travel to and from Asia had become a personal burden for Schriver. Hoffman said Schriver brought "unmatched" expertise on Asia policy.

Schriver, a former Navy intelligence officer, had been the

Pentagon's representative in U.S. nuclear diplomacy with North Korea in 2018. His position as head of Asia policy for the Pentagon has taken on added importance as the Trump administration tries to shift its strategic focus from the insurgent wars of the past two decades to competing more directly with a rising China.

WAR/MILITARY

2 airmen receive medals for actions in Afghanistan

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

Two parascuemen credited with saving dozens of lives during intense combat in Afghanistan have received Silver Star Medals, the Air Force said.

Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher and Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen, who were lauded for their actions in separate clashes, received the third-highest military award for bravery in a ceremony Friday at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"Getting this medal is important because it lets people know the war is still going on, and valiant efforts by men and women are still going forth," Fisher said in a statement. "People are still out there dying and fighting for each other, and it needs to be recognized."

Fisher, who also received a Purple Heart, fought in a fierce battle in the strategically important southeastern city of Ghazni in August of 2018.

An assault by more than 1,000 Taliban fighters occupied much of the city — home to 280,000 people — prompting American forces to send support and launch airstrikes against the insurgents.

Fisher served as the rear gunner in a convoy that was struck

by rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire during a Taliban ambush, an Air Force statement said.

Even after being wounded by grenade shrapnel, Fisher continued firing back at his attackers and gave medical treatment to critically injured soldiers during two ambushes, the Air Force said.

The Air Force credits Fisher with saving the lives of 10 critically injured soldiers, evacuating 20 more and eliminating 118 Taliban fighters.

Swensen received his medal for fighting in western Farah province in September, the statement said.

He was part of an Army Special Forces helicopter assault to reclaim a police headquarters taken by the Taliban. Militants sprang an ambush on a ground assault team Swensen was leading through a compound, separat-



BRYAN GUTHRIE/U.S. Air Force

From left, Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. and Lt. Col. Douglas Holliday stand with parascuemen Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher and Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen during a Silver Star Medal ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on Friday.

ing them from their supporting fire team and pinning them down before a grenade blast wounded Swensen and five others. Despite his wounds, the parascueman ran through enemy fire to treat an injured soldier before moving him to safety, the Air Force said.

Swensen carried one of the wounded as he and the others moved to an extraction point about half a mile away. As they waited for a medical evacuation helicopter to arrive, the Taliban launched a second attack.

Braving enemy fire, Sw-

ensen directed his comrades to cover, then continued treating the wounded until they could be evacuated. He then stayed behind to lead the remaining troops back through the enemy-occupied town to rescue four more injured soldiers. In all, he saved nine lives, the statement said.

"It's weird to receive so much attention for something that I feel anyone else would've done on the battlefield that night," Swensen said in the statement. "I'm honored my peers think I deserve this medal."

Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen
Silver Star recipient

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‘It’s weird to receive so much attention for something that I feel anyone else would’ve done on the battlefield that night. I’m honored my peers think I deserve this medal.’

Graham: US still seeks deal with Taliban

FROM FRONT PAGE

were lightly wounded, according to U.S. military spokesman Sonny Leggett. He did not specify how many of the injured were Americans.

Washington's peace envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, has been trying to hammer out a peace agreement with the Taliban for more than a year. The U.S. wants any deal to include a promise from the insurgent group that Afghanistan would not be used as a base by terrorist groups.

Graham, however, said the Taliban could not be trusted to be a reliable counterterrorism force.

"It would be insane for America to allow the Taliban to ensure that al-Qaida and ISIS-K doesn't come back in a way to represent a threat to our allies and to the American homeland," said Graham, using an alternative abbreviation for Islamic State's branch in Afghanistan. The Afghan affiliate refers to itself as the Kho-



RAHMAT GUL/AP

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham speaks at the Resolute Support headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. Graham said President Donald Trump will announce a U.S. troop drawdown.

rasan Province.

Khalilzad tweeted earlier this month that ISIS in eastern Afghanistan has been weakened by operations carried out not just by the U.S. and Afghan forces, but by the Taliban as well.

Amazon, DOJ spar over redactions in lawsuit

The Washington Post

The Justice Department is pushing back on Amazon's decision to withhold certain information from the public in its lawsuit over President Donald Trump's alleged meddling in procurement matters.

Amazon Web Services, the cloud computing division of Amazon, is suing to overturn a Defense Department decision to give its competitor Microsoft a massive, taxpayer-funded cloud computing contract. The Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure, known as JEDI, is a project to centralize the military's cloud computing systems in the hands of a commercial cloud provider. It is worth up to \$10 billion over a 10-year period.

In its initial complaint, Amazon accused Trump of employing "repeated public and behind-the-scenes attacks" against it, saying he acted on a grudge against Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos, who separately owns The Washington Post.

Amazon's attorneys cast Trump's intervention as more than just a slight against the company. They said the president's

actions could put the entire government procurement system at risk.

"The stakes are high," they wrote. "The question is whether the President of the United States should be allowed to use the budget of DoD to his own personal and political ends."

But they also withheld key bits of information from the company's initial legal complaint, leading the Justice Department to call its initial redactions "overbroad" in a brief filed Wednesday.

In one section of the complaint, Amazon's scores on seven evaluation criteria assigned to it by the government's source-selection

team were redacted, while Microsoft's corresponding scores were made public.

"AWS has designated information regarding the Government's evaluation of its own proposal as protected, while declining to protect the Government's assessments of Microsoft's proposal," the Justice Department wrote.

The Justice Department noted that it would not be in a position to place "substantive" injunctions on the JEDI project until early February. Even so, Amazon reserved the right to seek an injunction. Amazon has until Jan. 17 to request discovery in the case.



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MILITARY

Navy building ship named for gay sailor who was forced out

By MARISA LATI
The Washington Post

By the time Harvey Milk's supervisors in the U.S. Navy officially questioned him about his sexuality, he had graduated from officer school and served as a diving officer on a submarine rescue ship during the Korean War.

Then his superiors caught him in a park that was popular with gay men, his nephew said. The sighting raised questions about Milk's sexual orientation in an era when the military banned gay, lesbian and bisexual service members. Milk was forced to resign.

In a move that signaled an about-face on the issue of gay rights, the Navy on Friday began to construct the USNS Harvey Milk, a fleet oiler that will provide fuel to ships and aircraft.

The Navy announced in 2016 that Milk's name would appear on a ship, along with those of other civil rights leaders, including abolitionist Sojourner Truth and suffragist Lucy Stone.

Life after the Navy took Milk to New York, where he worked as a teacher, a stock analyst and a production associate for Broadway musicals. He moved to San Francisco in 1972 and opened a camera shop in the Castro District, which was known for its gay community.

Milk quickly became a powerful local activist. He founded the Castro Village Association for LGBTQ-led businesses, sat on San Francisco's Board of Permit Appeals and in 1978 was sworn in as a city-county supervisor.

People regularly lobbied death threats at Milk, who created sev-

eral iterations of his will in case he were to be assassinated. "If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door," he said in one version.

Milk's prediction became reality on Nov. 27, 1978, when former Supervisor Dan White entered city hall through a basement window, killed Mayor George Moscone and shot Milk, then 48, several times. Moscone had decided days earlier not to reappoint White to the legislative body.

White pleaded "diminished capacity" at trial because he had fallen into a depression and, among other things, eaten a lot of sugar-heavy food before the killings.

Based on that so-called "Twinkie defense," a jury found White guilty of voluntary manslaughter instead of murder. Riots and candlelight vigils took place to express outrage at the verdict. White served five years in prison and later killed himself.

It wasn't until more than a decade after Milk's death that the Navy would have been barred from forcing Milk out for being gay. President Bill Clinton in 1993 signed a policy of "don't ask, don't tell," which banned harassment of "closed" service members but still banned openly LGBTQ people from the armed forces.

President Barack Obama repealed the policy in 2011, opening the door for LGBTQ military members to reveal their sexual orientations.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2012 urged the secretary of the Navy to name a ship after Milk, one of the nation's first openly gay elected officials.

Okinawa-based Marine charged with trespassing

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An Okinawa-based Marine was arrested by Japanese police over the weekend after he was accused of smashing the glass back door of an off-base home while intoxicated.

Pfc. Anthony Sowers, 20, assigned to Camp Hansen, was taken into custody in the Kitamae neighborhood of Chatan shortly after police were called by the home's 66-year-old occupant at 4:41 a.m. Sunday, said Okinawa Police Station Deputy Chief Hirotoishi Iha.

Sowers broke off a metal window bar and used it to smash the door. The Okinawa Times newspaper reported Monday.

No injuries were reported, Iha said.

Sowers was arrested at the scene on charges of trespassing and destruction of property, Iha said. His blood alcohol content after his arrest measured 0.15%, five times Japan's legal limit for driving of 0.03%.

"He admitted the charges," Iha said.

Sowers was in custody Monday morning, Iha said. Police planned to refer the charges to the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office that afternoon.

Marine officials did not immediately respond to requests seeking comment Monday.

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DODEA Pacific Facebook page

Two teachers in costume engage in a round of sumo at Lester Middle School at Camp Lester, Okinawa.

Sumo heavyweights introduce Okinawa students to the sport

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LESTER, Okinawa — Students at Lester Middle School received some larger than life guests Friday as two sumo wrestlers from the renowned Sadogatake stable in Kyushu stopped by to impart a little Japanese culture.

Kotoeko — a maegashira ranked seventh in Japan's top Makuuchi division — and his protege, Kotoodutsu, were on Okinawa for Saturday and Sunday's Oozumou Okinawa Basho, or Grand Sumo Exhibition. Maegashira is the lowest of the five ranks in sumo's top division.

The answered students' questions, gave pointers on proper wrestling technique, refereed several matches between the school's teachers and chowed down on some Poyepes fried chicken in what overall turned out to be a raucous affair.

"Today, we got together with the children and taught them about sumo," Kotoeko said following the assembly in the school's gymnasium.

"Sumo always starts and ends with a bow. Regardless of whether you win or lose, the feeling that you have towards your opponent is important," he said. "We hope the children can learn the same, that regardless who your opponent is, that you respect them."

The wrestlers were brought to the school, part of the Department of Defense Education Activity, by teacher Kathleen Kalina, whose brother-in-law, Akebono, a native of Hawaii, was the first



CARLOS VAZQUEZ/Stars and Stripes

Japanese sumo wrestlers Kotoeko, left, and Kotoodutsu answer questions at Lester Middle School on Friday.

Watch the wrestlers give students pointers about sumo at stripes.com/go/okisumo

non-Japanese yokozuna, sumo wrestling's highest rank.

"I love sumo and I just really wanted to show the kids what a great sport it is," Kalina said. "And they liked it."

Austin Martinez, a Lester eighth grader, said it was exciting to have professional sumo wrestlers giving them pointers and telling them about their careers. Seeing his teachers battle one another in the ring was a special highlight.

During the teacher-on-teacher matches, the student body stood and cheered to a fever pitch and pounded the bleachers rhythmically to Queen's "We Will Rock You."

"It's pretty cool to see that. In the States, you wouldn't be able to see that."

Brigham Beck
seventh grader

"It was really fun to interact with real sumo wrestlers," said Mackenzi Horton, a seventh grader. Horton added that the pride associated with hosting the sumo wrestlers wouldn't wear off anytime soon.

"It's pretty cool to see that," said fellow seventh grader Brigham Beck. "In the States, you wouldn't be able to see that."

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NATION

Man whose info found on shooter faces court

Associated Press

KEYPORT, N.J. — A New Jersey man whose number was found in the back pocket of one of the perpetrators of last week's fatal shootings at a Jewish market was due in court Monday to face a weapons charge unrelated to the attack.

Ahmed A-Hady, of Keyport, was charged with being a felon in possession of a weapon. He had been convicted of a drug charge in 2012. He was scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in Newark in the afternoon.

A-Hady's number was found in the pants pocket of David Anderson, one of two attackers killed by police after an hours-long standoff at the JC Kosher Supermarket in Jersey City. Anderson and Francine Graham killed Jersey City Police Detective Joseph Seals before storming the store, killing three people inside. The attack is being investigated as domestic terrorism.

Anderson and Graham are also prime suspects in the slaying of a livery driver found dead in a car



ED MURRAY, NJ ADVANCE MEDIA/AP

The FBI searched the Buy N Sell pawnshop in Keyport, N.J., over the weekend while investigating last week's killing of a police officer and fatal attack on a Jewish market in Jersey City.

trunk in nearby Bayonne the previous weekend, authorities have said.

A-Hady hasn't been charged with providing any of the weapons used in Tuesday's shootings. The FBI said searches of his residence and a pawnshop in Keyport where he works — about 15 miles south of where the shootings occurred — yielded weapons including three AR-15-style assault rifles, three handguns and one shotgun, as well as more than 400 rounds of ammunition.

Anderson and Graham were

armed with multiple weapons including an AR-15-style rifle and a shotgun, and a pipe bomb was also found in the stolen U-Haul van they drove to the market. Two of the weapons used by Anderson and Graham were bought by Graham in Ohio last year, police have said. It's not known where they got the three other guns.

CBS2NY reported that A-Hady's brother said the family had never heard of the suspects and the pawnshop didn't sell firearms.

Court: Supermax prison addressed censorship issues

Associated Press

DENVER — A federal appeals court in Denver has ruled that officials at a supermax prison in Colorado sufficiently changed their policies and corrected their mistakes after refusing to distribute a magazine that provides legal information to inmates.

The three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday rejected an argument by the magazine's publisher, Prison Legal News, that a court order was warranted to prevent future censorship.

"The Warden has declared that PLN's future publications substantially similar to the previously rejected publications will not be rejected," said the opinion written by Judge Scott Matheson Jr.

The dispute centers on the U.S. Bureau of Prison's decision to not distribute 11 Prison Legal News

magazine issues between 2010 and 2014. The reason, prison officials said, was that those 11 magazines named individual inmates and employees in the Administrative Maximum Facility in Florence, Colo.

The facility is the highest-security prison in the U.S., housing inmates such as Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and, more recently, drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

Paul Wright, editor of Prison Legal News, expressed disappointment in the appeals court ruling, noting that this was the second time the Bureau of Prisons had censored the magazine and the "second time they claimed the suit was moot by capitulating at the last minute and delivering the censored publications years after they were published."

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NATION

House report says Trump betrayed nation

By LISA MASCARO
AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House Judiciary Committee released a sweeping report Monday bolstering the case for impeaching President Donald Trump, laying out the rationale and charges that accuse him of betraying the nation for his own political gain.

Trump faces two articles of impeachment by House Democrats: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. They point to Trump pressuring Ukraine to investigate 2020 political rival Joe Biden while withholding as leverage military aid the country relies on to counter Russia as well as his efforts to block the House investigation.

The House will vote Wednesday on the impeachment articles approved last week by the House Judiciary panel. The vote is all but certain to result in Trump's impeachment, though he's expected to be acquitted in a Senate trial.

Detailing its case against the nation's 45th president, the Judiciary panel released a 650-page report just after midnight. The document, which formally lays the groundwork for the vote, said Trump "betrayed the nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections."

The report was submitted to the House Rules Committee, which will meet Tuesday to set parameters for Wednesday's debate.

The panel summarized the evidence for impeachment compiled by the House intelligence committee and said Trump "has dem-



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., convenes the markup of articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Thursday. The committee issued its report Monday.

onstrated he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office."

Trump, by refusing to cooperate with the House impeachment inquiry, violated the Constitution's system of checks and balances, the report said.

In dissent, Republicans on the panel denounced the materials submitted by Democrats.

"The paltry record on which the majority relies is an affront to the constitutional process of impeachment and will have grave consequences for future presi-

dents," said Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, the panel's top Republican. "The quicker the majority report and the majority's actions are forgotten, the better."

The White House press secretary tweeted Monday that the release of the impeachment report "in the middle of the night" underscored that impeachment effort was a "partisan sham."

Trump, only the fourth U.S. president to be charged in impeachment proceedings, has insisted he has done nothing wrong.

Attention is turning to the Sen-

ate trial, where the Republicans are expected to acquit Trump in January.

"There ought to be a fair trial where the whole truth comes out," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters Sunday in New York. "And I'm going to work to get that done."

The top Senate Democrat called for new evidence and testimony from former national security adviser John Bolton, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and two others as part of a detailed proposal outlined in a letter Sunday to Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell to spur negotiations with the GOP.

"This trial must be one that is fair, that considers all of the relevant facts," Schumer wrote.

Trump has expressed interest in a robust trial that would not only clear him of the charges in the Senate but also vindicate him, but his desire for a lengthy proceeding is something Senate Republicans are hoping to avoid.

McConnell and Schumer are expected to meet to discuss how to conduct the trial.

The witness list will be key to the proceedings.

In his letter, Schumer proposes a detailed structure and timeline for a trial to begin Jan. 7, with the swearing-in of Chief Justice John Roberts to oversee the proceedings and stretch for several weeks as Democrats subpoena witnesses and testimony, specifically around Trump's decision to withhold military aid from Ukraine. A day of what Schumer calls "pre-trial housekeeping measures" would take place Jan. 6.

Democrats want to hear from Bolton, who labeled the alternative foreign policy being run by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and others as a "drug deal" he wanted no part of. He left the White House in September.

They also want testimony from Mulvaney, who has acknowledged the military aid to Ukraine was being held up, as well as two other White House officials: Robert Blair, a top Mulvaney aide, and Michael Duffey, a budget official who was tasked with handling the Ukraine issue. Those officials defied House Democrats' subpoenas to appear before the inquiry.

Comey: 'Real sloppiness' in Russia probe but no misconduct



KEVIN WOLF/AP

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former FBI Director James Comey acknowledged Sunday that a Justice Department inspector general report identified "real sloppiness" in the surveillance of a former Trump campaign aide and said he was wrong to have been "overconfident" about how the Russia investigation was handled.

But Comey also insisted he was right to feel some measure of vindication because the report did not find evidence for the most sensational of President Donald Trump's claims, including that he had been wiretapped and illegally spied on and that the FBI had committed treason in investigating ties between Russia and his 2016 campaign.

The inspector general, Comey said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday," "did not find misconduct by FBI personnel, did not find political bias, did not find illegal conduct." The significant mistakes the inspector general identified are "not something to

sneeze at" but also not evidence of intentional misconduct, Comey said.

In a tweet Sunday, Trump called for an apology from Comey, now that he "got caught red handed."

The report by Inspector General Michael Horowitz concluded that the FBI opened the Russia investigation for a legitimate reason and was not motivated by partisan bias when it did so.

But Horowitz also found major errors and omissions in applications the FBI submitted to eavesdrop on former Trump campaign aide Carter Page. Those problems include the omission of key information about the reliability of a source whose information had been relied on for the warrant and the altering of an email by an FBI lawyer.

Comey said in retrospect that he was wrong when he said last year that the applications to the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court were handled in a "thoughtful, responsible way."

"... He's right," Comey added, referring to Horowitz. "There

was real sloppiness, 17 things that either should've been in the applications or at least discussed and characterized differently. It was not acceptable and so he's right. I was wrong."

Current FBI Director Christopher Wray told The Associated Press last week that the report identified problems that are "unacceptable and unrepresentative of who we are as an institution." The FBI is taking more than 40 steps to fix those problems, he said.

Comey also criticized Attorney General William Barr for saying in a separate interview last week that the many errors by the FBI left open the possibility that agents may have acted in bad faith.

"The facts just aren't there, full stop," Comey said when asked whether Barr has a valid point. "That doesn't make it any less consequential, any less important, but that's an irresponsible statement."

NATION



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., hits a baseball after a meeting with minor league baseball players and officials at FunCity Turf on Sunday in Burlington, Iowa. Sanders is opposed to Major League Baseball's plan to cut 42 minor league teams.

Sanders makes pitch for saving minor league baseball teams

BY WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Iowa — Take Bernie out to the ball game?

Bernie Sanders, the Vermont senator and Democratic presidential candidate, is aggressively opposing a Major League Baseball plan to cut 42 minor league teams across the country after 2020. Among the targeted are the Vermont Lake Monsters, the Single-A affiliate of the Oakland Athletics in his hometown, Burlington.

Defending low-profile ball clubs in far-flung places more fervently than anyone in the crowded Democratic presidential field allows Sanders to potentially win over a largely untapped 2020 constituency: baseball fans.

Sanders briefly took batting practice Sunday on an indoor turf field as representatives from three small-town Iowa teams looked on: the Quad City River Bandits, the Clinton LumberKings and the Burlington Bees, the local club in his town on the Mississippi River. In August, Sanders played softball with reporters on the state's corn field-ringed "Field of Dreams," the set of the Hollywood hit of the same name. And he has tapped a former Harvard second baseman, Faiz Shakir, to run his campaign.

Sanders shed his signature suit jacket to take swings in a sweater over a dress shirt. With a staff member slow-pitching, the senator dribbled a few grounders to his left, then lifted a ball in the air in the same direction.

Taking the diamond demonstrated physical stam-

ina for a 78-year-old who recently had a heart attack while also letting Sanders press a larger political point about rich owners putting profits ahead of the national pastime.

MLB is negotiating a new agreement with the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body of the minors. The initial contract proposal primarily would affect lower-level teams in short-season leagues. Sanders met last month with Commissioner Rob Manfred to decry the plan and the senator sent him a letter Saturday, arguing that baseball "has to be considered more than just the bottom line."

After the initial Sanders-Manfred meeting, MLB issued a statement saying it "understands that we have an obligation to local communities to ensure that public money spent on minor league stadiums is done so prudently and for the benefit of all citizens."

But it added: "MLB also must ensure that minor league players have safe playing facilities suitable for the development of professional baseball players, are not subjected to unreasonable travel demands, are provided with compensation and working conditions appropriate for elite athletes, and have a realistic opportunity of making it to the major leagues."

Some minor league players have filed a federal class-action suit charging that many players earn less than \$7,500 per year, violating minimum wage laws.

More than 100 members of Congress from both parties have signed a separate letter to Manfred opposing shutting down minor league teams. So far, though, Sanders is alone among the Democratic

Thousands of Ohio voters' absentee applications denied

BY JULIE CARR SMYTH
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Thousands of Ohio voters were held up or stymied in their efforts to get absentee ballots for last year's general election because of missing or mismatched signatures on their ballot applications, an Associated Press review has found.

The signature requirement on such applications is a largely overlooked and spottily tracked step in Ohio's voting process, which has shifted increasingly to mail-in ballots since early, no-fault absentee voting was instituted in 2005.

To supporters, the requirement is a useful form of protection against voter fraud and provides an extra layer of security necessary for absentee balloting.

To detractors, it's a recipe for disenfranchisement — a cumbersome addition to an already stringent voter identification system.

Figures provided to the AP through public information requests to Ohio's 88 county boards of elections show 21 counties rejected more than 6,500 absentee ballot applications because a signature was either missing or didn't match what was on file. That requirement is not for the ballot itself, which faces a different battery of requirements, but merely for an application requesting for a ballot.

Another five counties reported rejecting about 850 applications combined, for various reasons that the boards didn't specify.

The few counties that tracked what happened to applications after they were rejected said issues were largely addressed before or on Election Day.

Twelve responding counties recorded encountering no signature issues with the absentee applications. The remaining responding counties said they didn't track how many applications they rejected.

It's a statistic conspicuously

absent from all the official data collected by the state, making it all but impossible to compare the issue across years or multiple states.

Signatures and other verification requirements are there to safeguard Ohio's elections, said state Rep. John Becker, a southwestern Ohio Republican. He said if a voter fails to sign the application form, "that's on them."

But Jen Miller, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, said the AP analysis highlights a largely unexamined step in a process her organization already views as inefficient and subject to uneven enforcement.

"So a person can register to vote online, but if you go online to request an absentee ballot, a form is mailed to you that you have to mail back," Miller said. Her organization supports allowing people to request absentee ballots online.

About 1.4 million of Ohio's roughly 8 million registered voters cast absentee ballots last year.

Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose advocated as a state lawmaker for Ohio to allow voters to apply for absentee ballots online. A version of legislation he first proposed in 2013 is now before Ohio's Legislature.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, three states — Oregon, Washington and Colorado — conduct all-mail elections, eliminating the ballot application process by automatically mailing a ballot to every registered voter before Election Day.

Miller said Ohio has not shown that political will to move in that direction, but her organization is pushing establishment of a permanent absentee list for those voters who meet certain criteria that require help, such as illness, permanent disability or illiteracy. Seven states and the District of Columbia have just such a system.

Houston's mayor holds on to win second term in runoff

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston's incumbent mayor won a second term on Saturday night, holding off a millionaire trial lawyer whose previous support of President Donald Trump had become one of the main campaign issues.

Mayor Sylvester Turner defeated Tony Buzbee during Saturday's runoff election. Unofficial results released by the Harris County Clerk's Office on Sunday

morning show Turner capturing just over 56% of the vote. More than 200,000 votes were cast.

In seeking a second term, Turner touted guiding Houston through the devastating floods of Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and reducing the city's huge pension debt as some of his accomplishments.

It was the second mayoral runoff won by Turner, who was a longtime Texas Democratic

legislator before taking the reins of Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city and one of the most racially and ethnically diverse in the country.

In 2015, Turner narrowly beat his runoff opponent by about 2 percentage points.

Turner and Buzbee ended up in the runoff as neither candidate got more than 50% of the vote during the Nov. 5 election, which featured 12 mayoral candidates.

Saturday's runoff ended what had been a mostly bitter mayoral race.

While city elections are non-partisan, Buzbee drew most of his support from Republicans while Turner's backing came mostly from Democrats.

Buzbee, a former Marine who made his fortune taking down big corporations in court, ran on a campaign of rooting out cronyism at City Hall and poured millions

of his own fortune into the race. Buzbee portrayed Turner as a career politician who is beholden to special interest groups.

Hip-hop fans may have recognized one candidate in a runoff for a City Council seat, but being a part of a pioneering rap group wasn't enough to get Brad Jordan elected. Jordan, better known as Scarface of The Geto Boys, lost in the runoff to Carolyn Evans-Shabazz.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man convicted in \$3M romance fraud scheme

MO KANSAS CITY — A Virginia man was convicted Friday in federal court in Missouri for his role in a scheme that defrauded lonely women across the country out of nearly \$3 million.

Henry N. Asomani, 34, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Ghana who lived in Dumfries, Va., was found guilty of six counts involving fraud and conspiracy.

Prosecutors said Asomani's co-conspirators contacted people who had posted ads on online dating sites such as ChristianMingle.com or through their Facebook pages and then used various phony stories to persuade victims to send them money.

Besides victims in Missouri, other victims live in New Jersey, Alaska, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas, Kansas and Iowa.

Package thief taunts with thank-you note

MN ST. PAUL — A package thief who made off with a woman's delivery in St. Paul last week decided to leave something behind for the victim — a handwritten thank-you note taunting her for the package.

Homeowner Hilary Smith said she found the note on her porch after she got home from work, hours after she received a text saying that her package had been delivered.

The note said: "So just a quick little thank you for leaving me the oppo. nity of stealing your package. Very nice of you. Thank You." It was signed: "The new owner of your package."

Smith said she appreciates hand-crafted thank-you notes, but not in this case.

Man found eaten by gator died of overdose

FL FORT MEADE — Florida officials said a man who was found partially eaten by an alligator in June died of a meth overdose.

According to an autopsy report from a central Florida medical examiner, Michael Glenn Ford II, 45, had methamphetamine in his system when he died, and that was the cause of his death.

Ford's body was found in a canal on private property in June in Polk County, halfway between Tampa and Orlando. His hand and foot were found inside the gator's stomach.

Bones found may be Revolutionary soldiers

CT RIDGEFIELD — Human skeletal remains possibly belonging to Revolutionary War soldiers have been discovered under an 18th-century house being renovated in Connecticut, according to a published report.

The Connecticut Office of State Archaeology was notified by the medical examiner's office of bones found under the basement of the Ridgefield home on Dec. 2. The News-Times of Danbury re-



LIZ COPAN, (FRISCO, COLO.) SUMMIT DAILY NEWS/AP

Head-spinning stunt

Chase Josey gets some air over the crowd during his second run of the men's snowboarding halfpipe finals of the Land Rover U.S. Grand Prix at Copper Mountain, Colo., on Saturday.

ported Wednesday.

Subsequent excavations by state archaeologist Nicholas Belantoni yielded two more skeletons. The bone size indicates they were probably men, he said.

One of the other reasons Belantoni and his team believe the bones belong to Revolutionary War soldiers is that they found five buttons.

Stolen pit bull to make long trip back home

WV CHARLESTON — A pit bull that was stolen from its owner in Montana and taken across the country to West Virginia is on its way back home, thanks to a microchip and a group of volunteers who love animals.

Cassandra Rasmussen, of Butte, Mont., said a person she considered a friend stole her purse and took her 9-year-old dog Zeus on Oct. 30.

The suspected thief was arrested in the Charleston area in November and the dog was taken to a shelter. Workers at the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association scanned him for a microchip and identified Rasmussen as the owner.

Volunteers are driving Zeus the nearly 2,000 miles back to Butte, according to a Facebook page.

Man charged with biting off part of friend's nose

AK FAIRBANKS — An Alaska man suspected

THE CENSUS

\$70K

The amount anonymously donated to pay off layaway purchases at two Alabama Walgreens. Someone paid off \$45,000 in purchases at a store in the east Alabama city of Anniston on Monday, according to Casey Stahl, a spokesman at company headquarters in Arkansas. Someone paid off another \$25,000 in layaway purchases two days later at a Walmart in nearby Oxford. WBMA-TV reported that customers at the Walmart in Anniston who arrived to pick up layaway items got a note that said: "God loves you. Jesus paid the price."

of biting off part of the nose of a friend has been charged with felony assault.

Zachary Atchley, 27, of Fairbanks, was arrested Dec. 10, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported.

The injured man told Alaska State Troopers that he went to see Atchley and another man about 3 a.m. Tuesday at Atchley's camper west of Fairbanks and began drinking hard liquor.

The man said Atchley approached and bit him, then prevented him from leaving for medical help for about an hour, a criminal complaint said. Atchley also punched him in the head and neck, the man said.

Part of the man's left nostril and the tip of his nose was missing.

Man commits crime to return to prison

MI ESCANABA — A Kalama-zoo-area man who told his lawyer that he wanted to rob an Upper Peninsula busi-

ness so he could return to prison could be locked up for the rest of his life.

Mark Wilson, 59, of Portage was sentenced Dec. 9 to at least 25 years in prison because of past convictions. He won't be eligible for parole until he's in his 80s.

"Somewhere along the road, your honor, I just seemed to have lost the ability to function normally with society," Wilson told a Delta County judge.

The Daily Press reported that Wilson gave a note to a Hardee's employee in Escanaba indicating that he was robbing the restaurant, he then stayed in the restaurant until officers arrived.

Mom who crashed car into barber surrenders

CA ANTIOCH — A San Francisco Bay Area mother suspected of ramming her car into her son's barber following a haircut surrendered to authorities, police said.

Ruby Delgadillo, 28, brought

an attorney with her when she turned herself in Wednesday and refused to give a statement to detectives, the Antioch Police Department said.

Police said Delgadillo rammed into Brian Martin, 63, with her car, smashing him into a glass storefront and breaking his leg, because she was upset with her son's haircut.

"She was trying to kill me," said Martin, owner of the Delta Barber Shop in Antioch, 45 miles east of San Francisco.

Martin told reporters Delgadillo had been his customer for over a year and was usually pleasant but she became upset over a small nick on her son's neck.

Bear spray explosion forces evacuation

MT BOZEMAN — Authorities said a home in southern Montana was evacuated after a can of bear spray exploded in a warming oven.

Graver Johnson, battalion chief with the Bozeman Fire Department, said three fire engines were sent to the home Dec. 10 because it was thought the structure was on fire.

The explosion was contained in the oven, and firefighters used fans to air out the building. The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported it's unclear why the bear spray was in the oven, and three men who live at the home declined to comment.

From wire reports

FACES

BY CHRISTI CARRAS
Los Angeles Times

"Danny, you look younger every day!" Danny DeVito shouted — not at himself but at Danny Glover, who was busy posing for a photo shoot to promote their new film "Jumanji: The Next Level."

DeVito had already taken his solo shots, so he set to amusing himself by backseat directing Glover's session from across the room. "Don't do that, Dan," he heckled as Glover crossed his arms for the camera. "Give them all the stuff we've never seen before, Dan!"

The character actor was already on a comedic streak after goofing off with his hair and makeup artist while waiting for his costar to show. Now that his friend and fellow Hollywood veteran was here, DeVito was in full-on ham mode. The pair recently spent an extensive amount of time together while making and touring for the "Jumanji" sequel, which is now playing nationwide, yet greeted each other like childhood buddies who hadn't talked since the last high school reunion.

"DD and DG, baby!" Glover exclaimed, pulling DeVito in for a bear hug.

Their familiar dynamic was fitting, considering they play old pals onscreen, though their characters aren't quite as comfortable with each other in the movie. "Jumanji: The Next Level" picks up with its main bunch of misfit kids, who have now graduated from high school and gone their separate ways, only to be pulled back into the game for another round of fun, new crafty characters and deadly landscapes.

DeVito plays Eddie, the grandfather of Spencer (Alex Wolff), whom audiences met as a high schooler in 2017's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle." Glover portrays Eddie's estranged business partner, Milo, who shows up unannounced on his frenemy's doorstep just in time for the holidays.

Friendship's NEXT LEVEL

DeVito, Glover finally share a scene in 'Jumanji' sequel



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG/Los Angeles Times

Old friends Danny DeVito, left, and Danny Glover join the cast of "Jumanji: The Next Level."

The two actors have only a handful of minutes in the film's brief exposition to convey decades of history between their characters, from the opening of their restaurant to Milo's friendship-shattering decision to retire from cooking.

"We were able to establish that right off the bat, right off the top — their relationship," Glover said. "And you can imagine ... the course of actions within that relationship — the bickering — the one-upmanship."

As if on cue, DeVito then slipped into restaurant roleplay, filling in some of the gaps "Jumanji" leaves

in their complex backstory.

"Never met a man who cracks an egg so slow," he fake-scolled Glover, presumably hard at work in their imaginary kitchen. "For crying out loud, don't examine the ... thing. It's an egg!"

These were the kind of scenarios DeVito and Glover conjured to explore their characters' fraught relationship, which sets up much of the movie's emotional themes before they inevitably get sucked into Jumanji's virtual world. There, they must pass the baton to their video game avatars: archaeologist strongman Dr. Smolder Bravestone (Dwayne

Johnson) and zoologist Franklin "Mouse" Finbar (Kevin Hart), respectively.

Yes, that means part of "Jumanji: The Next Level" involves Johnson and Hart doing their best impressions of DeVito and Glover — a comedic exercise the two blockbuster stars took very seriously, according to their muses.

"It was great to have him looking at you all the time, constantly," DeVito said of Johnson's "Method" approach. "When you know that that's happening — that he's watching your every move — I turned the burners up a little for him. Let him have a little

bit of extra Jersey."

"Kevin can capture a little bit of me," Glover said, smiling. "But I think sometimes my mannerisms are often so out there in the public space, you know what I'm saying? Even my grandson makes fun of me."

DeVito also got an extra impersonation from fellow franchise newcomer Awkwafina, who plays a stealthy cat-burglar avatar named Ming Fleetfoot. DeVito refused to reveal who he thought was his better mirror.

"Oh, Awkwafina, definitely," he quipped, before quickly adding, "No, I'm not saying that. (Johnson) did a great job."

Much like Eddie and Milo, DeVito and Glover go way back — so far, in fact, that they couldn't pinpoint exactly when they first met. But they know their first movie together was Francis Ford Coppola's "The Rainmaker" in 1997.

For Glover, meeting DeVito didn't feel like much of an introduction. He imagined he already knew his contemporary "as an extension" of his performances, and he's always been a fan. But they've since taken their friendship, appropriately, to the next level.

"There's a deeper bond when you find out that the people that you like believe in the same things that you believe in," Glover said. "You're drawn to them."

Despite boasting more than 300 acting credits between them, DeVito, 75, and Glover, 73, had never shared a scene — not even in 1997's "Rainmaker" — until "Jumanji: The Next Level."

"When I heard Danny DeVito was in it, man, I started laughing," Glover said, cackling over DeVito, who just kept repeating how "excited" he was. "I said, 'That's going to be funny, man.'"

"It's good to be in the same scene together," DeVito, who refers to Glover as his "baby brother," added. "Finally, after all these years, we're in the same scene together."

Hallmark reverses course, reinstates same-sex marriage ads

Associated Press

The Hallmark Channel, reversing what it called a "wrong decision," said Sunday it will reinstate commercials featuring same-sex couples that it had pulled following a campaign from a conservative group.

The earlier decision by Crown Media, Hallmark's parent company, to pull several ads for the wedding planning site Zola featuring two brides kissing at the altar had launched a storm of protest. Celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres and William Shatner criticized the move, and the hashtag #BoycottHallmarkChannel was trending on Twitter at one point.

"The Crown Media team has been agonizing over this decision as we've seen the hurt it has unintentionally caused," said a statement issued Sunday evening by Hallmark Cards CEO Mike Perry. "Said simply, they believe this was the wrong decision. ... We are truly sorry for the hurt and disappointment this has caused."

Zola, the wedding planning site that made the ads, said it was relieved that the decision to pull them had been reversed. In an email to The Associated Press, the company said it would be in touch with Hallmark regarding a potential return to advertising.

'Jumanji' ends 'Frozen 2' hot streak to claim top spot

"Jumanji: The Next Level" put "Frozen 2" on ice, while Clint Eastwood's "Richard Jewell" opened with one of the worst box office debuts for the director.

The "Jumanji" sequel, starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart, brought in \$60.1 million in the U.S. and Canada to break a three-day record for a comedy in December for the production company. The sequel is a follow-up to 2017's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," which grossed \$96.2 million worldwide.

A week before it opened in North America, "Jumanji: The Next Level" debuted in 18 international countries, where it made \$52.5 million.

"Frozen 2" dropped to second place with \$19.2 million domestically after claiming the top box office spot for three straight weeks, earning \$367 million since its Nov. 22 release. The animated film crossed the \$1 billion mark globally to become Disney Animation's third billion-dollar project along with "Frozen" and "Zootopia." It also became Walt Disney Studio's sixth billion-dollar release in 2019.

"Richard Jewell" landed at No. 4, bring-

ing in \$5 million. The film took aim at the media and federal investigators for what director Eastwood sees as a rush to judgment after the 1996 Olympics bombing in Atlanta.

The 1974 slasher remake "Black Christmas" opened at No. 5 with \$4.42 million.

The Rian Johnson-directed "Knives Out" continues to lean on strong social media buzz to land at No. 3, bringing in \$9.2 million. The whodunit film starring Daniel Craig, Jamie Lee Curtis and Chris Evans has now grossed \$78 million.

Authors scuttle planned TV show about deadly fire

Anger over plans for a television series about a deadly warehouse fire in the San Francisco Bay Area has led a husband-and-wife writing team to scuttle the project for now.

The Berkeley, Calif.-based authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman said Dec. 14 that since word got out that they were in the early stages of developing a show about the 2016 fire at the Ghost Ship warehouse, many friends and families of the victims have urged them to reconsider the project because it was too soon for

them to relive the tragedy.

Waldman said they hadn't sold their idea to a network. The fire tore through an art studio warehouse in Oakland during an electronic music party, killing 36 people.

Other news

■ "Mad Men" actress **Christina Hendricks** filed for divorce Dec. 13 from her husband of 10 years, actor **Geoffrey Arend**. The marriage dissolution documents cited irreconcilable differences. Hendricks, 44, and Arend, 41, have no children. They announced their divorce in October.

■ Oscar-winning British actor **Colin Firth** has split from his Italian film producer wife **Livia Giuggioli** after 22 years of marriage. The pair have two sons.

■ British-based **CineWorld** says it will buy Canada's **Cineplex** for about \$1.7 billion to create North America's largest chain of movie theaters and better compete with **AMC Entertainment**, which owns or operates about 1,000 theaters around the world.

■ **Anna Karina**, the French New Wave actress who became an icon of the cinema in the 1960s and was the muse of Jean-Luc Godard, died Dec. 14 of cancer. She was 79.

WORLD

Kosovan man charged with supporting ISIS

BERLIN — A man from Kosovo has been charged in Germany with supporting a terrorist organization on allegations he funneled money to Islamic State in Syria and spread propaganda for the extremist group, federal prosecutors said Monday.

The suspect, identified only as Hamed B., was charged Dec. 4 in Hamburg, prosecutors said.

B. is accused of facilitating the transfer of funds to an ISIS fighter in Syria 11 times between 2016 and 2017 and contributing some of his own money as well.

Lebanon delays new PM talk after brutal clashes

BEIRUT — Lebanon's president on Monday postponed talks on naming a new prime minister after security forces repeatedly used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons against hundreds of protesters over the weekend.

The clashes were the most violent since daily anti-government demonstrations erupted in Lebanon in mid-October.

President Michel Aoun was to meet with the heads of Lebanese parliamentary blocs on Monday to discuss the naming of the new prime minister amid divisions on the shape of the next government.

The presidential palace said the consultations would instead take place on Thursday, following a special request from outgoing Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

Philippines searches for 7 in building collapse

PADADA, Philippines — Rescuers pulled out two bodies Monday from a three-story building that collapsed in a strong earthquake in the southern Philippines and scrambled to find at least seven more people who were trapped inside.

Army troops, police, firefighters and volunteers, armed with sound and motion detectors, located a third body in the rubble of the building but could not immediately extricate the remains pinned in slabs of cement, Padada Mayor Pedro Caminero said.

At least five people died in Sunday's magnitude 6.9 quake that struck Padada.

50 bodies confirmed at farm near Guadalajara

MEXICO CITY — Human remains discovered last month at a farm outside the city of Guadalajara have been confirmed as belonging to at least 50 people, authorities in Mexico's west-central state of Jalisco reported.

Prosecutors said they had identified 13 people so far — 12 male and one female, all of whom were previously listed as missing.

The investigation continues, with the goal of identifying more victims as well as "those responsible for this crime which gravely harms society," the statement said.

The state is home to Jalisco New Generation, one of Mexico's bloodiest and most ruthless drug cartels.

From The Associated Press

PM Johnson prepares to 'get Brexit done' in time

By GREGORY KATZ
AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is ready to give a pep talk Monday to a new group of Conservative Party lawmakers as he begins his push to secure parliamentary approval for his Brexit deal.

Johnson will welcome 109 newly elected colleagues, many of them coming from parts of the country that were once strongholds of the opposition Labour Party.

Buoyed by the Conservatives' decisive win in last week's election, Johnson will move fast to deliver on his campaign mantra to "get Brexit done." That means ensuring a Brexit withdrawal agreement bill is passed in time for the U.K. to complete its historic departure from the European Union by the current deadline of Jan. 31.

Johnson spokesman James Slack said the government will introduce the EU withdrawal bill on Friday. It will be up to the speaker of the House of Commons to determine if Parlia-

ment will hold its first major vote on the bill that same day or will wait until January after the Christmas recess.

The Brexit divorce bill is expected to receive strong support in Parliament, where Johnson's Conservatives hold a strong majority. The party won 365 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons in Thursday's landslide election.

If the bill passes and Britain leaves the EU on time, the country will enter a transition period when EU rules and regulations would still apply in the country and people and goods would still be able to pass freely between the U.K. and the remaining EU members.

Negotiators for the British government and the EU would start trade talks with an eye toward reaching a comprehensive post-Brexit agreement.

Queen Elizabeth II will formally open Parliament on Thursday with a speech outlining the government's legislative program.

New lawmakers took to Twitter to chronicle their first day at work.

The new representative for Bury in north-



LINDSEY PARNABY, POOL/AP

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he's ready to begin work on ensuring a Brexit agreement is passed by Jan. 31.

west England, Christian Wakeford, tweeted: "Reality with a bump, 5:33 train down to #Westminster not a morning person at all but couldn't be happier to be on this train."

Newcastle-under-Lyme lawmaker Aaron Bell shared an image of himself smiling in front of the Palace of Westminster and wrote: "Good morning Newcastle. A new dawn has broken, has it not?"

There was no such giddiness on the Labour side, which saw its worst result since 1935 in the vote Thursday, winning only 203 seats. The party is gearing up for a bruising leadership contest, which is expected to formally begin in early January.

Japan, South Korea hold export talks after dispute

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Senior officials from Japan and South Korea were holding talks Monday on high-tech exports for the first time since Tokyo tightened controls on South Korean semiconductor parts earlier this year.

The director-general level meeting was taking place in Tokyo between Yoichi Iida, of Japan's Trade Control Department, and his South Korean counterpart, Lee Ho-hyeon. The two officials shook hands at the beginning of the talks, though they made no opening remarks to the media.

A meeting of this level has not been held in more than three years.

Japan in July tightened trade controls on South Korea materials used in smartphones, television screens and other high-tech products, citing national security concerns. Japan also downgraded South Korea a month later from a list of preferential trade partners.

South Korea has demanded Japan reverse the measures, saying Tokyo has weaponized export controls in retaliation for South Korean court rulings demanding Japanese companies pay compensation to former Korean laborers over their treatment during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

Tokyo has pressed Seoul to stick with a 1965 agreement in resolving their dispute over wartime Korean laborers, criticizing the court decisions as a violation of international law.

Japan's trade curbs against South Korea have led to subsequent retaliatory measures that spilled into the area of national security, with Seoul threatening

to abandon a key military intelligence-sharing pact with Tokyo.

The pact was saved just hours before its expiration in November, following Washington's repeated pressure and with Tokyo agreeing to resume export control talks requested by Seoul.

Monday's talks come a week ahead of a planned summit between the two countries and China.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and South Korean Foreign Minister Kan

Geun-wha, both attending the Asia-Europe Meeting in Madrid, Spain, talked briefly and welcomed their trade officials' meeting in Tokyo, Japanese officials said.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate closely on threats from North Korea and to achieve next week's summit.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that Japan's export control measures are part of the country's international responsibility and that "they are not

something that we decide by negotiating with a trade partner."

"Our policy has been consistent and there is no change to our position," Suga said, referring to Japan's position on the wartime compensation issue. "We urge South Korea to act wisely."

South Korean national assembly speaker Moon Hee-san is seeking to set up a compensation fund for the Korean wartime laborers with an option that allows Japanese companies to chip in donations as a compromise.

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LETTERS TO SANTA

WORLD

Rebels kill scores in weekend Congo attacks

By AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO
AND SALEH MWANAMILONGO
Associated Press

BENI, Congo — Rebels with apparent links to Islamic State killed at least 43 people in eastern Congo over the weekend in a series of attacks carried out in response to a new military offensive in the area, a rights group said Monday.

Rebels from the Allied Demo-

cratic Forces in some cases went door-to-door shooting their victims dead, according to a Congolese human rights group known by its French acronym, CEPADHO.

The rebels have been trying to pit the civilian population against the army so that people demand the military action be stopped, said Omar Kavotha, president of the rights organization. Insecurity in the area already prompted

demonstrators to protest late last month by setting fire to the town hall.

The deadly weekend violence targeted an area in eastern Congo that is at the heart of the Ebola epidemic.

"These attacks will certainly paralyze the Ebola response teams," said Dr. Pierre Celestin Adikiy, who coordinates the effort to control the disease in the

Beni region. "The movement of the population becomes difficult to control."

Other armed groups in the area such as the Mai Mai militias also may take advantage of the insecurity to carry out attacks of their own, he said.

The medical effort to control the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history has been severely hampered since the start by

the presence of so many armed groups in eastern Congo.

Health teams have at times been unable to safely get to areas to carry out vaccinations of those at highest risk of contracting the deadly virus. Without the ability to react quickly, Ebola has continued to spread.

Community mistrust of the health workers has only further deepened the problem.



RICHARD DREW/AP

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi says Libya's U.N.-backed government has been "taken hostage" by what he called "terrorist militias."

Egypt: Militias hold Libyan government 'hostage'

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — Libya's U.N.-supported government is held hostage by "armed and terrorist militias" in the capital, Tripoli, Egypt's leader said Sunday.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi said in televised comments that the Government of National Accord "is not able to have a free and real will because they have been taken hostage by armed and terrorist militias there."

The GNA is backed by Egypt's regional rivals Turkey and Qatar, and Egypt's relations with the two countries have been

strained since 2013. That's when el-Sisi, as defense minister, led the military overthrow of elected but divisive Islamist President Muhammad Morsi amid mass protests against his brief rule. Morsi was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Tripoli-based government is supported by a Libyan affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood group, which Cairo designated as a terrorist organization in 2013. Turkey and Qatar are also staunch backers of the Brotherhood.

El-Sisi said the Libyan conflict has posed a threat to Egypt's national security because militants and weapons spill over

the border into Egypt. He said it had been a priority for Egypt to directly interfere in Libya "but did not take this step to maintain the relationship and brotherhood with the Libyan people."

There was no immediate comment from the Tripoli authorities.

Last week, the Egyptian president said a comprehensive political solution for the Libyan conflict would be achieved in the coming months that would put an end to a "terrorist hotbed that pushes militants and weapons to (Libya's) neighboring countries including Egypt."

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Dental

902

Transportation

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Ernie Gates

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RAMHAT GULAP

Security personnel arrive near the site of a suicide bombing near Bagram Airfield in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday that targeted an under-construction medical facility, the U.S. military said.

‘Afghanistan Papers’ should surprise no one

By SAM LONG
Special to Stars and Stripes

The saddest thing about the “Afghanistan Papers” published by The Washington Post is not what they contain — it is how many people in Washington are claiming to be surprised by their content. The documents confirm what Afghanistan veterans already know — that a disinterested American public has been deceived for years about the war.

My experience in Afghanistan left me skeptical that we were ever serious about the mission in the first place, and my chance encounter five years ago with the author of the Afghanistan Papers gave me the distinct impression that not only were we not winning, but also that our failures were widespread, well documented and widely known in Washington.

That is why the feigned horror by elected officials and the defense establishment is difficult to take seriously. According to Republican Sen. Josh Hawley, the Afghanistan Papers are “truly shocking.” His Democratic counterpart, Richard Blumenthal — whose son served in Afghanistan as a Marine officer — tweeted that the documents are “appalling.” If these senators are actually surprised to learn that civilian and military authorities were not exactly forthcoming about a directionless and flailing war effort, then American foreign policy has entered into a new chapter of absurdity.

In 2013 I deployed to Helmand province, where I led a U.S. Marine adviser team that mentored and fought alongside a rifle company of soldiers from the Republic of Georgia. Not revealed in the Afghanistan Papers is the extent to which we outsourced the war to NATO-aspiring states like Georgia, a tiny nation in the Caucasus Mountains. Even if the Georgians had been capable of doing more than holding the insurgents at bay, they were never going to win any hearts and minds given how often Afghan villagers confused them with the dreaded Russian soldiers they had fought against three decades earlier. To the Taliban, the Georgians’ presence signaled that America’s patience in Afghanistan was wearing thin.

After returning to the States, I spent a year running a training facility for com-

bat advisers. I had enjoyed working with foreign soldiers and felt it important that I spend my last year in the Marines helping train other Marine advisers, most of whom would be working directly with the Afghan army and police.

One day in 2014, I received an email from a colonel in my chain of command, advising me that the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the organization from which the recently released Afghanistan Papers are sourced, was visiting Camp Pendleton, Calif. We needed to assemble a “roundtable” of former adviser team commanders and the Pentagon’s attitude toward combat advising. The SIGAR team, led by John Sopko, wanted to hear about our experiences.

We organized the discussion in the dingy conference room in one of the temporary buildings that housed our training unit. Those trailers perfectly symbolized the Pentagon’s attitude toward combat advising. After more than a decade pursuing counterinsurgency efforts in two countries, we had poured hundreds of billions of dollars into building “institutions” in faraway countries that did not really want them, but had not yet erected a proper building to house adviser training.

When SIGAR arrived, the officers and senior enlisted Marines in attendance unloaded their frustrations with remarkable candor. Marines are usually wary of speaking freely to unfamiliar bureaucrats, but these officers wanted Sopko to know how badly the war was going and how poorly the Afghan military was faring against the Taliban.

Many of these men had patrolled daily alongside the Afghan army squads and policemen that Gens. David Petraeus and Stanley McChrystal had told us were key to winning the war, and many had lost Marines doing so. Others had assisted Afghan generals and their staffs, organizing Afghan fighters of various loyalties into army corps, brigades, battalions and so on. Some Afghan generals fought hard. Others stole their soldiers’ salaries, sold their equipment and abused the civilians they were supposed to protect.

Story after story was told of corruption, waste and negligence. The corruption generally occurred on the Afghan side, but

the blame for waste and negligence fell on American higher-ups who looked the other way.

I spoke about pleading with the Afghan police to patrol with us. We were eager to prevent the Taliban from regaining control of northern Helmand, an area that Marine battalions had wrested from them at tremendous cost. The Afghan commander agreed to patrol if we would provide him with some wood and other building supplies. We obliged, handing over plywood, two-by-fours and other materials flown from the U.S. and then driven on Helmand’s IED-laden roads to our position. Within a week, the wood was gone — not stolen — but burned by Afghan soldiers trying to stay warm in freezing temperatures. I could only shake my head and laugh.

The briefing became a dark comedy. For Marines, humor is a universal salve, applied to mask both physical and emotional pain. Some of us openly laughed at the literally criminal tales recounted for Sopko and his team as it became clear that the officials from SIGAR had heard hundreds of similar anecdotes. I remember calling a friend from my adviser team that afternoon, after Sopko had departed. “They told him everything. It was unreal. And here’s the thing — he didn’t even bat an eye.”

It was clear that nobody cared — except for maybe Sopko and his staff, who have done us a tremendous service by painstakingly and thanklessly recording the Afghan disaster for posterity. I knew in 2013 that if we were sending Georgians to Helmand province, it meant that nobody in Washington was serious about winning in Afghanistan — whatever that even meant. It would not become apparent until much later, however, that everyone in Washington — political leaders, the military brass and the entrenched foreign policy establishment — was deadlier serious about not leaving.

America will have to forgive its veterans for being cynical about the Afghanistan Papers. Neither their contents nor their implications are news to us. On the bright side, their release makes it impossible for our elected leaders to claim ignorance about the war’s failures any longer.

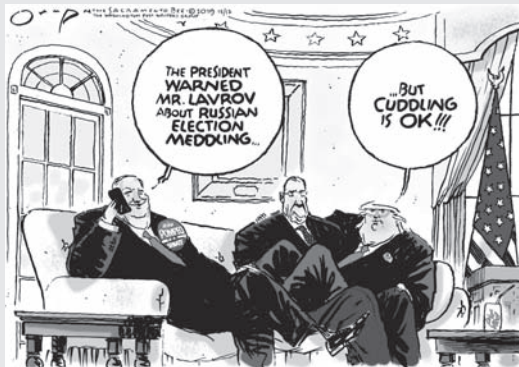
Sam Long served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2009 to 2015, deploying to Afghanistan, the Republic of Georgia, South Korea and Okinawa, Japan.

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

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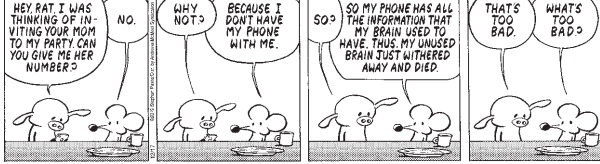
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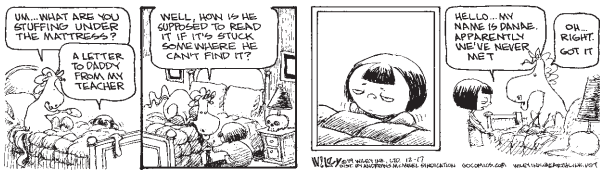
Dilbert



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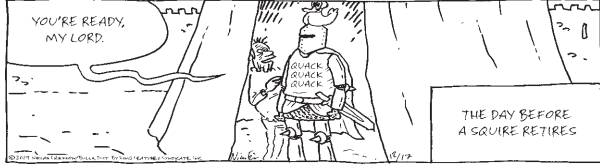
Non Sequitur



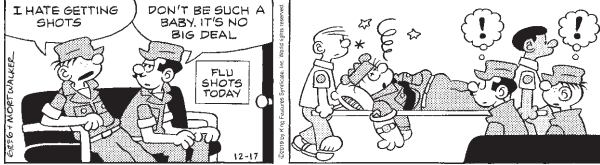
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
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42						43	44				45	46	47
48						49					50		
51						52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 Mentor
- 5 Not on
- 8 Social standing
- 12 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 13 Pie — mode
- 14 Bard's river
- 15 Eric Clapton or Sting
- 17 Roman emperor
- 18 "Unh-unh"
- 19 Country singer Tim
- 21 Seafood selection
- 24 — gin fizz
- 25 Geezer
- 26 St. Patrick's Day emblem
- 30 Play part
- 31 Expiate
- 32 King, in Cannes
- 33 TV's "The — Files"
- 35 Caesar's "vidi"
- 36 Deserve
- 37 Dangerous bacteria
- 38 Wiggle
- 41 Disney deer
- 42 In pain
- 43 Neil Diamond's musical genre
- 48 French river
- 49 Bankbook abbr.
- 50 Gas co., for one
- 51 Milky gem

DOWN

- 1 Needlefish
- 2 First numero
- 3 Sinbad's bird
- 4 Detangle
- 5 Vow
- 6 Ga. neighbor
- 7 It's measured in acres
- 8 Park official
- 9 Say it's so
- 10 "A Doll's House" heroine
- 11 Recognize
- 16 Melancholy
- 20 Arrive
- 21 Cicatrix
- 22 Couturier Chanel
- 47 Carrier to group
- 24 Clipped, as sheep
- 26 Enters angrily
- 27 Guesser's words
- 28 Furnace fuel
- 29 Fuzzy fruit
- 31 Miles away
- 34 Harvey of "The Piano"
- 35 He flew too close to the sun
- 37 Tolkien creature
- 38 "Scram!"
- 39 Witticism
- 40 — Major
- 41 New news
- 44 Lennon's lady
- 45 Non-Rx
- 46 "Homeland" org.
- 47 Carrier to Amsterdam

Answer to Previous Puzzle

V	A	L		P	O	L	A	R		W	A	N			
O	W	E		O	P	I	N	E		A	L	I			
W	E	S	T		P	O	I	N	T		R	A	N		
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A	S	I		T	U	B		N	E	A	T	O			
T	A	L	C		M	O	T		S	N	A	P			
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W	E	A	L	T	H		M	C	S						
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12-17

CRYPTOQUIP

M P O U J D E X O F X Y Q F Y
A O Q H Y X Y F C D U J D E P Y A
G X O R C D E W H J G E F L D X M Y X A
Y W L Y Q F P Y R O J D E

AO-GDWCFOA CF?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PERIODICAL MEANT TO ENRICH GROWTH OF APPLE TREES AND FLOWER BEDS: "BETTER POMES AND GARDENS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals Y

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BASKETBALL

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College football

FCS playoffs

Quarterfinals

Friday, Dec. 13
James Madison 17, Northern Iowa 0
Montana State 24, Austin Peay 10
Weber State 17, Montana 10

Saturday, Dec. 14
North Dakota State 3, Illinois State 3
Seminals
Saturday, Dec. 21
North Dakota State 14-0 vs. Montana State (11-3)

James Madison (13-1) vs. Weber State (11-3)
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 11
At Frisco, Texas
Seminifinal winners

NCAA Division II playoffs

Quarterfinals

Saturday, Dec. 7
Ferris State 25, NW Missouri State 3
Minnesota State 42, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 20
Slippery Rock 65, Notre Dame (Ohio) 59
West Florida 43, Long-Rhyme 38

Seminals
Saturday, Dec. 14
Minnesota State 58, Slippery Rock 15
West Florida 28, Ferris State 14
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21
At McKinney, Texas
Minnesota State (14-0) vs. West Florida (12-2)

NCAA Division III playoffs

Quarterfinals

Saturday, Dec. 7
Muhlenberg 24, Salisbury 10
North Central (Ill.) 31, Delaware Valley 13
Saint John's (Minn.) 34, Wheaton (Ill.) 33

North Central-Whitewater 26, Mary Hardin-Baylor 7

Seminals
Saturday, Dec. 14
North Central (Ill.) 45, Muhlenberg 14
North Central-Whitewater 35, Saint John's (Minn.) 32

Championship
Friday, Dec. 20
At Shenandoah, Texas
North Central (Ill.) (13-1) vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater (13-1)

NAIA playoffs

Seminals

Saturday, Dec. 21
Morningside 21, Grand View 16
Marion (Ind.) 34, Lindsey Wilson 24

Championship
Monday, Dec. 23
At Eddie G. Robinson Stadium
Grambling, La.
Morningside (13-0) vs. Marion (Ind.) (12-0)

College hockey

Sunday's scores

EAST

Army West Point 1, Boston College 1
Michigan St. 1, Arizona St. 0, OT

Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Traded RHP Corey Kluber to Texas for OF Delino DeShazo and RHP Emmanuel Clase

NATIONAL LEAGUE
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Signed RHP Blake Treinen to a one-year contract.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed OT Greg Little on IR. Activated WR Chris Hogan from IR.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed DT Repple Wren on IR. Signed DE Aaron Aluokun from the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Released OL Caleb Benenoch. Signed LB Chris Covington from the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Reassigned F Julien Gauthier to the AHL.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned F Mitchell Stephens to Syracuse (AHL).

College basketball

Top 25 Fared

1. Louisville (10-1) lost to Texas Tech 70-57; beat Eastern Kentucky 99-67.
2. Kansas (9-1) beat Milwaukee 95-68; beat UMKC 98-57.
3. Ohio State (9-1) lost to Minnesota 84-71.
4. Maryland (10-1) lost to Penn State 76-69.
5. Michigan (8-3) lost to Illinois 71-62; lost to No. 10 Oregon 71-70, OT.
6. Gonzaga (11-1) beat No. 15 Arizona 84-80.
7. Duke (9-1) did not play.
8. Kentucky (8-1) beat Georgia Tech 67-53.
9. Virginia (8-1) did not play.
10. Oregon (8-2) beat No. 5 Michigan 71-70, OT.
11. Baylor (8-1) beat No. 18 Butler 53-52.
12. Auburn (9-0) beat Saint Louis 67-61.
13. Memphis (9-1) beat No. 19 Tennessee 51-47.
14. Dayton (8-1) beat Drake 78-47.
15. Arizona (10-2) beat Omaha 99-49; lost to No. 6 Gonzaga 84-80.
16. Michigan State (7-3) beat Oakland 72-49.
17. North Carolina (6-4) lost to Wake Forest 68-64.
18. Butler (10-1) lost to No. 11 Baylor 53-52; beat Southern 64-41.
19. Tennessee (7-2) lost to No. 13 Memphis 51-47.
20. Villanova (8-2) beat Delaware 78-70.
21. Florida State (8-2) did not play.
22. Seton Hall (6-4) lost to Rutgers 68-48.
23. Xavier (9-2) lost to Wake Forest 80-78.
24. Colorado (8-2) lost to Northern Iowa 79-76; beat Colorado State 56-48.
25. San Diego State (10-0) did not play.

Sunday's men's scores

EAST

Boston College 84, CCSU 55
Cleveland State 81, Joseph's (Maine) 73
Drew 76, Wilkes 65
Glenville St. 125, Fairmont St. 111
Indiana (Pa.) 108, Bethany (WV) 41
John Jay 62, SUNY-Canton 58
McDaniel 65, Elmira 54
Mercy 82, Roberts Wesleyan 74
New Haven 78, Holy Family 64
Quinnipiac 81, Maine 61
Shepherd 101, Wilson 50
St. John's 71, Jefferson 70
St. Michael's 78, Post (Conn.) 75
St. Thomas Aquinas 83, Doane 80
Tennessee 56, Fordham 61
UConn (Maine) 81, Southern Poly St. 76
UMBC 86, Coppin St. 77
Woolster 81, St. John Fisher 80
Yeshiva 83, E. Connecticut 75

SOUTH

Bellarmine 95, Mount St. Joseph 52
Berry 63, McMurry 26
Brigadier (Va.) 66, Apprentice 56
Baylor 71, Ferrum 69
Chattanooga 84, Troy 80, OT
ETSU 37, Milligan 41
Georgia College 57, UNC Pembroke 64
Le 75, West Florida 63
Marian Memorial 122, Tenn. Wesleyan 62
Longwood 76, Stetson 72
N. Kentucky 79, Illinois State 64
St. Augustine 69, Grand Staircase 77
SC-Aiken 81, North Georgia 76
UNC Asheville 67, Clemson 54
West Florida 81, Drexel 61
UCF 76, Sacred Heart 65
Va. Wesleyan 74, Christopher Newport 62

MIDWEST

Valdosta St. 84, Ala.-Huntsville 62
Virginia Tech 73, Gardner-Webb 46
William & Mary 90, Goucher 30
North Carolina 54
Adrian 94, Hiram 87
Northwood 100, Concord 50
Michigan State 72, Cleveland St. 58
Bradley 81, Georgia Southern 51
Louisiana 74, Augusta (Ill.) 67
Loyola of Chicago 64, Norfolk 45
New Orleans 68, Martin Luther 67
Miami (Ind.) 93, Rocky Mountain 76
McKendree 85, Hannibal-LaGrange 51
Miami (Ohio) 73, MVU 67
Missouri 68, Ohio St. 67
Missouri 64, S. Illinois 48
N. Michigan 64, Michigan Tech 61
Oaksboro 70, Purdue 50
Northwestern 72, SIU-Edwardsville 54
Oakland City 108, Ohio State 76
Oswego 52, Texas Rio Grande Valley 82
Perry 90, Lincoln 60
Wittenberg 80, E. Mennonite 59
Youngstown 55, E. Tennessee 50

SOUTHWEST

Oklahoma St. 61, Houston 55
Houston 59, Wichita State 51
Texas A&M 63, Texas A&M-CC 60
Texas Tech 77, Baylor (Iowa) 65
UTSA 98, Texas-Permian Basin 55
FAR WEST
Academy of Art 75, Chaminade 68
CS Stanislaus 79, San Francisco 62

AP spotlight

Dec. 17

1944 — The Green Bay Packers win the NFL championship with a 14-7 win over the Chicago Bears in the Polo Grounds. Ted Fritsch of the Packers scores on a 2-yard pass from Vince Lombardi from an Irvin Cup for a 14-0 halftime lead.

2006 — Terrell Owens catches an NFL-record 14 passes for 283 yards and a touchdown in San Francisco's 17-0 victory over Chicago. Jeff Garcia completes 36

Hawaii 94, Samford 73
Pacific 79, CS Northridge 73
Southern Cal 87, Long Beach St. 76
Southwestern (Texas) 90, JW, Col. 66
Washington St. 70, UC Riverside 56

Tuesday's men's games

EAST

Princeton vs. Iowa at Brooklyn, N.Y.
UMBC at Georgetown
Franciscan University of Steubenville at St. Francis (Pa.)
Cent. Michigan at Robert Morris
American U. at Mount St. Mary's
Florida vs. Providence at Brooklyn, N.Y.

SOUTH

SIU-Edwardsville at Winthrop
Stetson at USC-Ashville
Mid-Eastern State at East Carolina
Elon at Campbell
NC Central at Louisiana Tech
Tennessee Tech at Lipscomb
North Alabama at UAB
Jacksonville at North Peay
Alabama A&M at South Alabama
North Florida at Delta State
Temple vs. Miami at Brooklyn, N.Y.

MIDWEST

North Texas at Dayton
SE Missouri at Ohio St.
MSU at Wright St.
Northwestern at E. Michigan
Central Michigan at North Dakota
Grambling St. at Marquette
Maryville (MO) at Saint Louis
Toledo at UMKC
Oklahoma at Creighton
Purdue at Ohio

FAR WEST

San Francisco at Stanford
Johnson & Wales (Colo.) at Air Force
Grand Canyon at New Mexico
Denver at S. Colorado
Omaha at S. Washington
Bethesda at Weber St.
Portland St. at Pepperdine
Seattleu, Wash. at Washington

Sunday's women's scores

EAST

Boston College 88, Boston U. 57
Duquesne 72, St. Francis (Pa.) 63
Marist 72, Green Bay 60
Rhode Island 71, Robert Morris 59
Waldorf 66, Marshall 41
St. Bonaventure 80, Oakland 66
Stony Brook 66, Wagner 45
Texas Tech 63, Dartmouth 51
UMBC 65, Morgan St. 63
UNC Asheville 62, Penn State 55
West Virginia 72, Norfolk St. 55

SOUTH

Alabama 83, North Carolina 77
American U. 59, Radford 55
Florida 74, Bethune-Cookman 56
UMBC 65, Mercer 61
FAU 72, CCSU 54
Florida St. 74, St. John's 70
Gardner-Webb 67, Delaware 65
Georgia 77, Furman 48
Houston 69, Evansville 58
Jacksonville 77, FIU 52
Longwood 78, Delaware St. 62
Louisville 87, Kentucky 65
NC State 62, Elon 49
North Carolina 85, Purdue 49
South Florida 67, Idaho 44
Southern Illinois 62, South Alabama 55
Stetson 66, Tulsa 60
Tennessee 31, FIU 56
HCU 30, Chattanooga 51
UAB 86, Alcorn St. 65
UNC Asheville 62, Penn State 55
Vanderbilt 75, E. Kentucky 69
W. Kentucky 85, Samford 84
Wofford 75, UNC-Ashville 38

MIDWEST

Butler 74, High Point 52
Cleveland St. 79, Omaha 66
CU 59, Evansville 58
Indiana 93, Youngstown St. 56
Indiana St. 79, Wm. Wright 58
Kansas 66, Saint Mary's (Cal.) 81
Kentucky 89, Cleveland St. 66
Minnesota 76, UC Davis 67
Missouri 87, Mississippi State 59
N. Iowa 51, IUPUI 50
New Mexico 67, Murray 50
North Dakota 86, Montana 64
South Dakota 55, UNC 50

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 99, Arkansas State 39
Cent. Arkansas 66, Central Baptist 38
College 43
Oklahoma 95, Sam Houston St. 71
Rice 77, Prairie View 55
Stephen F. Austin 75, LSU-Shreveport 43
TCU 79, High Point 52
Texas A&M 72, Houston 43
Texas Tech 59, Central Baptist 51
Boise St. 63, E. Washington 61
HCU 86, Houston International 49
N. Colorado 46, Wyoming 44
Stephen F. Austin 77, Portland 71
Stanford 71, Ohio St. 52
Texas Tech 59, UC Irvine 59
Washington 65, San Diego 47
Washington St. 87, UC Irvine 59



ANDY CLAYTON-KING/AP

Minnesota guard Marcus Carr, left, looks to pass as Ohio State guard Luther Muhammad, center, and forward Kaleb Wesson defend in the second half on Sunday in Minneapolis. Carr scored 35 points as the Gophers handed the Buckeyes their first loss of the season.

Top 25 roundup

No. 3 Buckeyes, Tar Heels upset

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — With an eight-day break between games, Ohio State coach Chris Holtmann was wary of this trip to Minnesota despite the fact his team had been on.

The third-ranked Buckeyes had the kind of flat performance Holtmann was worried about, and — Poof! — their perfect record was gone, thanks to an all-around effort by the Gophers.

Marcus Carr scored a career-high 35 points and Daniel Oturu had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Minnesota toppled undefeated and third-ranked Ohio State 84-71 on Sunday as coach Richard Pitino's first win against a top-five team.

"I thought we had some inconsistencies to our practice week," Holtmann said. "You're not always sure if that's due to finals or whatever. Obviously, it was a significant layoff, but I don't look at that as the reason that we lost. They were the better team tonight."

Oturu outworked Kaleb Wesson in the paint to win the battle of two of the Big Ten's best big men with his sixth double-double of the season for the Gophers (5-5, 1-1). Prior to this game, the highest-ranked opponent they'd beaten in seven years under Pitino was No. 6 Maryland on Feb. 18, 2016. Minnesota beat the Buckeyes' average scoring allowance by 30 points. That was fifth in the nation entering the game.

"I don't know if there was a weakness in what we did," Pitino said. "I just thought start to finish that was about as complete a game as we've played here."

Carr stole the show with 28 points in the second half, but it took a collective increase in ag-

gression by him and fellow guards Gabe Kalscheur and Payton Willis after a 20-point loss at Iowa when the three of them combined for 10 points on 3-for-29 shooting.

Wofford 68, No. 17 North Carolina 64: Wofford traveled to Chapel Hill and shocked a ranked North Carolina team again, getting 19 points from Trevor Stumpe and riding a 16-0 run in the second half to beat the Tar Heels.

Storm Murphy added 15 points and Messiah Jones had 13 points for the Terriers (7-4), who went on the road to beat North Carolina for the second time in three years.

"We know what comes with the intensity of this type of game," Murphy said. "We 100 percent believed we could do it and we were going to win. It was a blast. It was absolutely a thrill."

Wofford, a 12-point underdog, made four three-pointers during its decisive spurt, a 6-minute stretch in which the Tar Heels missed 10 consecutive shots.

Garrison Brooks had 17 points and 12 rebounds for North Carolina (6-4) in its first regular-season game at Carmichael Arena since Jan. 4, 1986.

The Terriers had just five turnovers and made 14 of 40 three-point attempts, outscoring North Carolina by 24 points from three-point range.

"A lot of times, we handled some punches that North Carolina threw at us with some good tough counterpunches," McAuley said. "We fought our tails off. We weren't the biggest, we weren't the strongest, but we were really, really physical."

Brandon Robinson added a career-high 16 points for the Tar Heels but lost their third straight game.

MLB/NHL

D-Backs land Bumgarner

Longtime Giants ace signs \$85M, 5-yr deal

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Longtime Giants ace Madison Bumgarner has reached agreement with the Arizona Diamondbacks on an \$85 million, five-year contract that ends his run of success in San Francisco, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Bumgarner still needed to pass a physical to complete the deal.

Bumgarner pitched 11 seasons for the Giants but knew his time likely had ended. He bid farewell along with retiring manager Bruce Bochy on the final day of the season.

The 2014 World Series MVP will see a lot of his former team next season, too. Arizona plays the Giants in seven of its first 13 games, including a series that begins in San Francisco on April 6. "I'm very excited to be playing with Madison again! He is the ultimate competitor and I know he will help us immensely," said new Arizona catcher Stephen Vogt, a 2019 teammate with Bumgarner in San Francisco. "This team is already in a good position and adding someone like Bum will only add to that!"

The Giants said during the winter meetings this past week in San Diego they had remained in contact with representatives for the 30-year-old Bumgarner, who helped them win World Series



BEN MARGOT/AP

2014 World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner has reportedly signed an \$85 million, five-year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks that will end his successful 11-season run in San Francisco.

titles in 2010, '12 and '14.

The seven-time defending NL West champion Dodgers also were among the clubs interested in signing the free agent.

Bumgarner went 9-9 with a career-high 3.90 ERA last season. The lefty has been especially valuable in postseason play—he is 4-0 with a memorable Game 7 save and an 0.25 ERA in World Series play, and has pitched two shutouts in NL wild-card games.

This marks the second time in four years the typically frugal Diamondbacks have signed a top-tier free-agent pitcher. In 2015, Arizona added right-hander Zack Greinke on a \$206.5 million, six-

year deal.

Arizona went 85-77 last season and traded Greinke to Houston in late July. The Diamondbacks haven't had a lot of success in October lately, not winning a game in the NL Championship Series round since taking their only World Series title in 2001.

Bumgarner will join a rotation that includes left-handers Robbie Ray and Alex Young and right-handers Merrill Kelly and Mike Leake. Ray is entering the final year of his contract.

Bumgarner started his career high with the 34 starts this year, moving past two frustrating, injury-shortened seasons.

Indians trade Kluber to Rangers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND—Corey Kluber led by example and excellence in Cleveland. The Texas Rangers are hoping he can do the same for them.

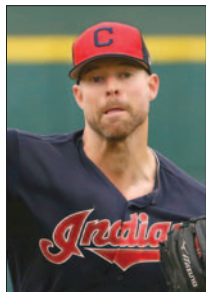
The Indians traded the two-time Cy Young Award winner and their unquestioned ace—over the past six seasons to the Rangers on Sunday, a blockbuster deal that could dramatically change both teams.

In exchange for the 33-year-old Kluber, Cleveland received outfielder Delino DeShields and pitching prospect Emmanuel Clase, a hard-throwing 21-year-old reliever with "electric stuff."

Indians president Chris Antonetti said he received calls from numerous teams, but the offer from Texas made the most sense for Cleveland because it included players who can have an immediate impact and "help us be a better team in 2020."

But dealing the stoic and steady Kluber wasn't easy.

Since the Indians acquired him in a 2010 trade with San Diego, he has blossomed into one of baseball's most dominant pitchers. Kluber won his first Cy Young



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Cleveland Indians traded two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber to the Texas Rangers on Sunday for OF Delino DeShields and pitching prospect Emmanuel Clase.

in 2014, when he went 18-9 and added No. 2 in 2017 after going 18-4 and leading the AL with a 2.25 ERA.

But his future with the money-

conscious Indians grew more uncertain last season when the club managed to stay in the playoff chase until late September despite not having him after May 1.

Kluber broke his right forearm when he was struck by a line drive during a start at Miami and never made it back. He came close to returning to the Indians' rotation but suffered an oblique injury during a minor league rehab appearance that ended his comeback.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said the injuries that Kluber dealt with last season "don't necessarily give us pause," and believes the time off could be a positive after all his innings pitched in previous seasons.

"The start of last season wasn't going to the way he's accustomed of pitching, and I think the time off may give him a little time to reset and get his body fresh," Daniels said. "He feels like he's in a really good spot."

Daniels described Kluber, who is on vacation on the West Coast, as "genuinely excited" about the deal. A three-time All-Star, Kluber went 98-58 with a 3.16 ERA over his nine seasons with the Indians.



PAUL BEATY/AP

The Blackhawks' Patrick Kane, left, celebrates with teammate Brent Seabrook (7) on the bench after scoring one of his three goals against the Minnesota Wild on Sunday in Chicago.

NHL roundup

Kane's 1st hat trick of season lifts Chicago

Associated Press

CHICAGO—Patrick Kane scored three goals for his first hat trick of the season, and the Chicago Blackhawks stopped a four-game slide by topping the Minnesota Wild 5-3 on Sunday.

Brandon Saad and David Kampf also scored for Chicago, which was coming off a heartbreaking loss at St. Louis. The last-place Blackhawks had dropped seven of nine overall. Robin Lehner stopped 23 shots.

Kevin Fiala scored twice for Minnesota in the opener of a three-game trip. Eric Staal also scored, and Ryan Suter had three assists. Kaapo Kahkonen finished with 22 saves.

Kings 4, Red Wings 2: Anze Kopitar scored two goals and Los Angeles beat host Detroit for its third win in four games.

Jeff Carter and Tyler Toffoli also scored for the Kings. Alex Iafallo had two assists and Jack Campbell, who is from Port Huron, Mich., stopped 22 shots. Defensesman Madison Bowey had a goal and an assist, and Filip Zadina also scored for Detroit.

Golden Knights 6, Canucks 3: Max Pacioretty had two goals and two assists to help Vegas beat visiting Vancouver.

Nick Holden, Valentin Zykov, Jonathan Marchessault and Mark Stone also scored for the Golden Knights. It was the fifth time this season Vegas has five different goal scorers in a game. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 26 shots to improve to 12-2-1 in his career against the Canucks.

Jets 7, Flyers 3: Blake Wheeler and Mark Scheifele each had a power-play goal and added two assists in host Winnipeg's win over Philadelphia.

Nikolaj Ehlers, Luca Sbisa, Logan Shaw, Patrick Laine and Kyle Connor also scored and Connor Hellebuyck made 29 saves to help the Jets improve to 20-11-2.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	34	21	7	6	48	115	86
Buffalo	34	16	11	7	39	107	103
Montreal	34	15	12	6	36	105	107
Toronto	34	16	14	4	36	110	105
Carolina Bay	32	16	12	3	35	109	98
Florida	32	15	12	5	35	109	108
Ottawa	33	14	17	2	30	90	103
Detroit	35	9	23	3	21	76	135
Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	31	22	7	2	46	92	77
N.Y. Islanders	31	22	7	2	46	92	78
Carolina	32	20	11	1	42	107	86
Pittsburgh	33	19	10	4	42	110	89
Philadelphia	33	17	11	5	39	101	95
N.Y. Rangers	32	16	12	4	36	103	101
Columbus	32	12	14	6	30	93	108
New Jersey	32	10	17	5	25	77	105

Western Conference

Western Conference					
Central Division					
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
St. Louis	34	20	8	6	46
Colorado	32	21	8	5	45
Winnipeg	33	20	11	2	42
Dallas	34	19	11	4	42
Minnesota	34	16	13	5	37
Nashville	31	14	12	5	33
Chicago	34	13	15	6	32
Pacific Division					
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Arizona	35	19	12	4	42
Vegas	36	18	13	5	41
Calgary	35	18	13	4	40
Edmonton	35	18	13	4	40
Vancouver	34	16	14	4	36
San Jose	35	16	17	2	34
Los Angeles	33	14	15	4	32
Los Angeles	35	14	18	3	31

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild-card teams per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games
N.Y. Islanders 3, Buffalo 2, OT
Ottawa 4, Columbus 3, OT
Anaheim 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, SO
Carolina 4, Calgary 0
St. Louis 4, Chicago 3
Toronto 4, Edmonton 1
Minnesota 4, Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 5, Los Angeles 4, SO
Detroit 2, Montreal 1
Washington 5, Tampa Bay 2
Boston 4, Florida 2
St. Louis 4, Carolina 3
New Jersey 2, Arizona 1
San Jose 4, Vancouver 3

Sunday's games
Winnipeg 7, Philadelphia 3
Chicago 6, Los Angeles 3
Los Angeles 4, Detroit 2
Vegas 6, Vancouver 3

Monday's games
Ottawa at Florida
Nashville at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Los Angeles
Toronto at St. Louis
Edmonton at Dallas

Tuesday's games
Ottawa at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Toronto
Anaheim at Boston
Nashville at N.Y. Islanders
Philadelphia at Carolina
Columbus at Detroit
Carolina at Winnipeg
Pittsburgh at Calgary
Montreal at Vancouver
Arizona at San Jose

Wednesday's games
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
Colorado at Chicago
Edmonton at St. Louis

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	8	714	—
Boston	17	7	708	1
Toronto	17	8	680	1½
Brooklyn	14	12	538	5
New York	21	222	131	

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	19	7	731	—
Orlando	12	14	462	7
Charlotte	12	17	414	8½
Washington	17	7	292	11
Atlanta	6	21	222	13½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	14	3	889	—
Indiana	18	9	667	6
Detroit	11	15	423	12½
Chicago	10	18	357	14½
Cleveland	6	20	231	17½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	17	8	680	—
Houston	17	9	654	½
San Antonio	10	15	400	7
Memphis	9	17	346	8½
New Orleans	8	21	222	12

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	17	8	680	—
Utah	15	11	577	2½
Oklahoma City	11	14	440	6
Minnesota	10	15	400	7
Portland	10	16	385	7½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	3	3	889	—
L.A. Clippers	20	8	714	4½
Sacramento	12	14	462	11½
Phoenix	11	14	440	12
Golden State	5	23	179	19½

Saturday's games

San Antonio 121, Phoenix 119, OT
 Toronto 110, Brooklyn 102
 Chicago 109, L.A. Clippers 106
 Memphis 128, Washington 111
 Miami 122, Dallas 118, OT
 Milwaukee 125, Cleveland 108
 Denver 110, Oklahoma City 102
 Detroit 115, Houston 107

Sunday's games

Orlando 130, New Orleans 119
 Indiana 107, Charlotte 85
 Brooklyn 109, Philadelphia 89
 L.A. Lakers 101, Atlanta 96
 Denver 111, New York 105
 Sacramento 100, Golden State 79

Monday's games

Washington at Detroit
 Cleveland at Toronto
 Chicago at Oklahoma City
 Dallas at Milwaukee
 Miami at Memphis
 San Antonio at Houston
 Portland at Phoenix

Tuesday's games

L.A. Lakers at Indiana
 Sacramento at Charlotte
 Atlanta at New York
 Brooklyn at New Orleans
 New Orleans at Philadelphia
 Toronto at Detroit

Wednesday's games

Charlotte at Cleveland
 Chicago at Washington
 Miami at Philadelphia
 Toronto at Detroit
 Memphis at Oklahoma City
 New Orleans at Minnesota
 Orlando at Denver
 Boston at Dallas
 Golden State at Portland

Leaders

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	291	300	201	59.3	
Antetokounmpo, MIL	26	239	166	807	31.0
Duncan, DAL	25	236	184	732	29.3

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Drummond, DET	25	115	201	416	16.6
Capela, HOU	22	94	230	324	14.7
Gobert, UTA	24	94	245	329	13.7

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
James, LAL	291	288	10.7
Rubio, PHX	20	187	9.4
Doncic, DAL	25	222	8.9

Roundup

Lakers beat Hawks for 7th straight win

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Not looking the least bit tired after a whirlwind weekend, LeBron James scored 32 points and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to seven with a 101-96 victory over the pesky Atlanta Hawks on Sunday night.

The Lakers pulled even with Milwaukee for the NBA's best record at 24-3.

"Highlights: sometimes they happen, sometimes they don't," James said. "I try to play the game with a lot of joy."

The Hawks kept it close all the way. Rookie Cam Reddish got a look at a tying three-pointer from the corner, but the shot clanked off the rim. Danny Green went to the other end and knocked down a pair of free throws to send the Hawks to their fourth straight loss.

After scoring 28 points in a win at Miami on Friday night, James flew to Columbus, Ohio, to watch son Bronny play a high school game Saturday night. Then, James traveled on to Atlanta to face the Hawks.

James also had 13 rebounds and seven assists, the best a no-look, between-the-legs pass that caught Dwight Howard breaking down the lane for a massive dunk. Anthony Davis added 27 points and 13 rebounds.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 30 points.

Magic 130, Pelicans 119: Jonathan Isaac had 21 points and 10 rebounds and visiting Orlando handed New Orleans its franchise-record 12th straight loss.

Magic center Nikola Vucevic returned from a sprained ankle to score 20 points. He played 29 minutes in his first game since Nov. 20. Orlando snapped a three-game losing streak while making a season-high 17 threes, shooting 50% from long range.

True Holiday led the Pelicans with 29 points and eight assists.

Nets 109, 76ers 89: Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points, Joe Harris had 16 points and host Brooklyn beat Philadelphia.

DeAndre Jordan had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Garrett Temple finished with 13 points



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Lakers forward LeBron James, right, pushes Hawks guard Trae Young out of the way as he prepares to grab a jump ball during the second half of Sunday's game in Atlanta. James finished with 32 points and Los Angeles beat the Hawks 101-96.

for the Nets.

With Joel Embiid out with an upper respiratory illness, Ben Simmons scored 20 points and Tobias Harris chipped in 17 for the 76ers. They had won five in a row.

Nuggets 111, Knicks 105: Nikola Jokic made a late go-ahead three-pointer and finished with 25 points to help Denver hold off New York.

Will Barton had 16 points, Gary Harris added 15 and Jamal Murray had 14, including a key three-pointer in the late going. The Nuggets beat the Knicks for the 12th straight time in Denver.

Marcus Morris led New York

with 22 points. The Knicks were coming off back-to-back road wins under interim coach Mike Miller. They played Denver 11 days ago in New York and lost by 37 points, a setback that preceded the firing of David Fizdale as coach.

Kings 100, Warriors 79: At San Francisco, Bogdan Bogdanovich scored 25 points, Buddy Hield added 19 and Sacramento routed Golden State.

The Kings won for the fourth time in five games and shook off a disappointing home loss Friday to the lowly New York Knicks. They shot a season-best 60% from the field and beat the Warriors for just the fourth time in the past 25

games between the teams dating to the 2013-14 season.

Willie Cauley-Stein, facing his former team, led the Warriors with 14 points on 7-for-9 shooting. Golden State has lost eight of nine to fall to 5-23.

Pacers 107, Hornets 85: Reserve guard Aaron Holiday scored 12 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter in Indiana's victory over visiting Charlotte.

Holiday was a point shy of his career high set a month ago at Brooklyn. Cody Zeller, an Indiana native who typically plays well in front of family and friends, had 19 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte.

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NFL



D. ROSS CAMERON/AP

Oakland Raiders fans in "The Black Hole" watch their team walk off the field. The Jaguars beat the Raiders 20-16 Sunday in the Raiders' final home game before moving to Las Vegas next season.

Eagles overcome fumbles, Redskins

LANDOVER, Md. — Carson Wentz fumbled the ball away, but recovered in time to keep alive Philadelphia's hopes of winning the NFC East.

Wentz bounced back from a potentially costly mistake by leading a 75-yard, go-ahead scoring drive and throwing his third touchdown pass of the day.

"I didn't lose faith or confidence at all," Wentz said. "I just wanted one more chance. I wanted another chance to go down and the defense gave that to us, and we got it done."

Philadelphia and Dallas both are 7-7 and face off in Philadelphia next week.

Wentz threw TD passes to Miles Sanders, Zach Ertz and Greg Ward and 30-for-43 for 266 yards.

Eagles 37, Redskins 27

Philadelphia 37 7 7 20-27
Washington 27 0 0 13-27

First Quarter
Phi—FG Elliott 25, 1:23.
Was—McDaniel 75 pass from Haskins (Hopkins kick), 1:11.

Second Quarter
Phi—Sanders 1 run (Elliott kick), 9:53.
Was—Sims 5 pass from Haskins (Hopkins kick), 6:58.

Third Quarter
Phi—Sanders 15 pass from Wentz (Elliott kick), 5:53.

Fourth Quarter
Was—Peterson 10 run (Hopkins kick), 14:53.
Phi—Ertz 2 pass from Wentz (Elliott kick), 9:59.
Was—FG Hopkins 53, 8:02.
Phi—Ward 4 pass from Wentz (Elliott kick), 2:21.

Phi—Bradham 47 fumble return, 0:00.
A—63-246.

Phi
First downs 27
Total Net Yards 415
Rushes-yards 28-157
Passing 261
Punt Returns 0-0
Kickoff Returns 3-9
Interceptions Ret. 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 30-43-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-8
Punts 3-46.7
Penalties-Yards 7-54
Time of Possession 36:57

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Washington, Sanders 19-127, Scott 6-26, Wentz 3-0. **Washington**, Peterson 16-66, Haskins 4-26, Ferguson 3-9.
PASSING—Philadelphia, Wentz 30-43-0-266. **Washington**, Haskins 19-28-0-261.
RECEIVING—Philadelphia, Ward 7-61, Scott 7-39, Sanders 6-50, Ertz 5-61, Godert 5-55. **Washington**, Minshew 5-130, Sims 4-55, Peterson 3-25, Thompson 2-26, Harmon 2-22, Sprinkle 2-13.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Jaguars spoil Raiders' final game at Oakland

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jacksonville quarterback Gardner Minshew threw two TD passes to Chris Conley in the final 5:15 of the game and the Jaguars spoiled the final scheduled game at the Oakland Coliseum.

"It was definitely an awesome experience to be here and play in the last game," Minshew said. "Probably saw more middle fingers today than I have in my whole life. They have a good time. It was fun to ruin that for them."

The Raiders (6-8) broke out to a 16-3 lead and appeared comfortably ahead before falling apart. The Jaguars drove 79 yards to draw within 16-13 on Minshew's 6-yard TD pass to Conley. The two connected again from the 4-yard line with 31 seconds left.

Some frustrated fans threw debris on the field but most just sat quietly in the stands.

Jaguars 20, Raiders 16

Jacksonville 20 16 0 3-14-20
Oakland 16 0 0 0-16

First Quarter
Oak—Williams 40 pass from Carr (Carlson kick), 11:29.
Jac—FG Lambo 28, 8:09.

Second Quarter
Oak—FG Carlson 34, 2:21.
Oak—FG Carlson 27, 3:00.

Third Quarter
Jac—FG Lambo 43, 12:28.
Fourth Quarter
Jac—Conley 6 pass from Minshew (Lambo kick), 5:15.
Oak—Conley 4 pass from Minshew (Lambo kick), 5:15.

Jac
First downs 20
Total Net Yards 262
Rushes-yards 22-77
Passing 185-236
Punt Returns 1-3
Kickoff Returns 1-35
Interceptions Ret. 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 17-29-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-16
Punts 5-49.6
Fumbles-Lost 0-0
Penalties-Yards 8-61
Time of Possession 25:48

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Jacksonville, Fournette 15-42, Minshew 5-27, Westbrook 1-7, Armstead 1-1. **Oakland**, Jacobs 24-99, Washington 6-16, Carr 1-12, Richard 1-11.
PASSING—Jacksonville, Minshew 17-29-0-201. **Oakland**, Carr 22-36-0-267.
RECEIVING—Jacksonville, Fournette 5-31, Conley 4-49, Cole 3-76, Devalve 2-23, Westbrook 2-4, Board 1-6. **Oakland**, Waller 8-122, Inopoli 3-22, Williams 2-45, Richard 2-25, Jacobs 2-20, Washington 2-6, Boss 1-17, Carrier 1-5, Jones 1-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Oakland, Carlson 50, Carlson 45.

Vikings take advantage of Chargers' turnovers

CARSON, Calif. — Mike Zimmer has accomplished many things as a defensive coordinator and head coach. He added one more in Minnesota's rout.

The Vikings forced seven Chargers' turnovers and converted them into 20 points. It is the most takeaways for a Zimmer-led unit.

"We knew that they had minus in turnover margin, so it was important that we try to get some today," Zimmer said.

Minnesota has a two-game lead for the final NFL playoff spot and has won four of its last five.

"It's still all up for grabs," said Kirk Cousins, who threw 207 yards with a touchdown and interception. "We've put ourselves in a position to have a lot to play for these last two games."

Vikings 39, Chargers 10

Minnesota 39 6 13 6-14-39
L.A. Chargers 10 0 0 0-10

First Quarter
Min—Smith 1 pass from Cousins (kick failed), 5:10.
LAC—FG Badgley 41, 4:35.

Second Quarter
Min—FG Badgley 26, 14:57.
LAC—M. Williams 2 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), 8:42.
Min—FG Badgley 44, 4:17.

Third Quarter
Min—Odunigbo 56 fumble return (Bailley kick), 9:07.

Fourth Quarter
Min—Boone 8 run (Bailley kick), 10:25.
Min—Boone 2 run (Bailley kick), 8:45.
Min
First downs 34
Total Net Yards 344
Rushes-yards 37-137
Passing 207
Punt Returns 0-0
Kickoff Returns 1-25
Interceptions Ret. 3-7
Comp-Att-Int 19-28-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0
Punts 2-51.5
Fumbles-Lost 0-0
Penalties-Yards 5-41
Time of Possession 27:41

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Minnesota, Boone 13-56, Cook 9-27, Abdullah 5-25, Cousins 3-14. **O.Johnson** 1-6, Ham 1-5, Diggs 1-4, Thiele 1-3, Marmion 1-3. **Chargers**, Rivers 28-38-3-307.
PASSING—Minnesota, Cousins 19-25-1-207. **L.A. Chargers**, Rivers 28-38-3-307.
RECEIVING—Minnesota, Diggs 4-76, Pritchett 3-48, Thielen 2-27, Cook 1-16, Ham 3-13, I. Smith 2-8, O.Johnson 1-16.
L.A. Chargers, Allen 9-99, Ekelor 5-62, Gordon 5-36, M. Williams 4-71, Henry 2-29, Jackson 2-2, Patton 1-8.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Drake's 4 TDs lifts Cards past Browns

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Kenyan Drake was almost embarrassed by his four-touchdown day for Arizona, saying that two of the scores came when he essentially fell forward on 1-yard runs. The other two were so easy, he strolled into the end zone untouched.

The Cardinals (4-9-1) snapped their losing streak at six games — and Drake snapped his personal skid at 14 — by beating Cleveland. The Browns fell to 6-8 to further damage their already slim playoff hopes.

"Sometimes it just kind of falls in your favor," Drake said. "I'm blessed to have the opportunity to go out here and play the game I love."

Drake ran for a season-high 137 yards six weeks after being acquired by the Cardinals in a midseason trade with the Miami Dolphins. The running back told nine straight games with the Dolphins before the trade and then lost five more with the Cardinals.

Cardinals 38, Browns 24

Cleveland 0 10 7 7-24
Arizona 34 7 14 7 10-38

First Quarter
Ari—Drake 5 run (Gonzalez kick), 10:09.

Second Quarter
Ari—Drake 1 run (Gonzalez kick), 12:02.
Cle—Chubb 31 run (Selbert kick), 7:50.
Cle—FG Selbert 44, 4:33.

Third Quarter
Cle—Seals-Jones 2 pass from Mayfield (Selbert kick), 8:54.
Ari—Drake 1 run (Gonzalez kick), 1:40.

Fourth Quarter
Ari—Drake 17 run (Gonzalez kick), 7:25.
Ari—FG Gonzalez 21, 5:18.
Ari—Seals-Jones 1 pass from Mayfield (Selbert kick), 1:21.

Cle
First downs 25
Total Net Yards 253
Rushes-yards 23-93
Passing 241
Punt Returns 1-9
Kickoff Returns 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 30-43-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 1-6
Fumbles-Lost 1-1
Penalties-Yards 5-34
Time of Possession 30:49

RUSHING—Cleveland, Chubb 17-127, Hunt 4-44, Mayfield 21-111. **Arizona**, Drake 12-137, K. Murray 9-56, Kirk 1-28.

RECEIVING—Cleveland, Beckham 8-66, Hunt 8-64, Landry 2-24, Seals-Jones 3-42, Chubb 3-21, Ratley 2-33, Harris 1-13. **Arizona**, Drake 4-76, Murray 4-71, Williams 1-42, Clay 1-8, Cooper 1-17, Drake 1-9, Arnold 1-4.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Cleveland, Selbert 45.

Winston's 4 TDs lifts Bucs over Lions

DETROIT — Jameis Winston is making quite a case to stay in Tampa Bay. Winston became the first player in NFL history to throw for 450 yards in consecutive games, leading the Buccaneers to a win over Detroit.

He threw three touchdowns in the first half — four overall — and a career-high 458 yards passing one week after throwing for 456 yards.

Though both Tampa Bay and the Lions won't reach their goals this season, Winston made the most of his opportunity to show the Buccaneers they should give him a new contract when his deal expires following the season.

"I hope I helped my team because I definitely want to be here in Tampa," he said.

Winston, playing with a small fracture in his right thumb, completed 28 of 42 passes and set a career high with 221 yards passing in the first quarter and 308 yards by halftime.

Buccaneers 38, Lions 17

Tampa Bay 38 14 7 3-14-38
Detroit 17 0 0 7-17

First Quarter
TB—Perriman 34 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 7:25.
TB—Miller 33 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 3:42.

Second Quarter
TB—Perriman 25 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 8:03.
Det—FG Prater 44, 3:17.

Third Quarter
TB—FG Gay 46, 11:32.
Det—Hills 1 run (Prater kick), 6:45.

Fourth Quarter
Det—Hills 1 run (Prater kick), 14:57.
TB—Murphy-Bunting 70 interception return (Gay kick), 5:12.

TB—Perriman 25 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 2:59.

TB
First downs 23
Total Net Yards 495
Rushes-yards 29-49
Passing 266
Punt Returns 1-0
Kickoff Returns 2-43
Interceptions Ret. 2-91
Comp-Att-Int 28-42-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-12
Punts 3-36.3
Fumbles-Lost 0-0
Penalties-Yards 9-70
Time of Possession 31:19

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tampa Bay, Godwin 11-23, Barber 10-17, Winston 2-42, Perriman 1-3, Ogunbowale 1-3, Griffin 4-10. **Lions**, 1-De-Root 1-10, Hill 1-7, Blough 5-19, Johnson 2-3, McKissic 1-2.

PASSING—Tampa Bay, Winston 28-42-1-458. **Detroit**, Blough 24-42-2-260.

RECEIVING—Tampa Bay, Godwin 11-23, Perriman 5-113, Howard 4-66, Miller 3-49, Barte 3-33, Barber 2-23, Watson 2-17, Jones 1-26, Hudson 1-14, Ogunbowale 1-13, Hyman 1-33. **Detroit**, Armendola 8-102, J. Williams 4-77, Blough 5-19, Johnson 2-3, McKissic 2-7, Hills 2-1, Lacy 1-48, Miller 1-1.

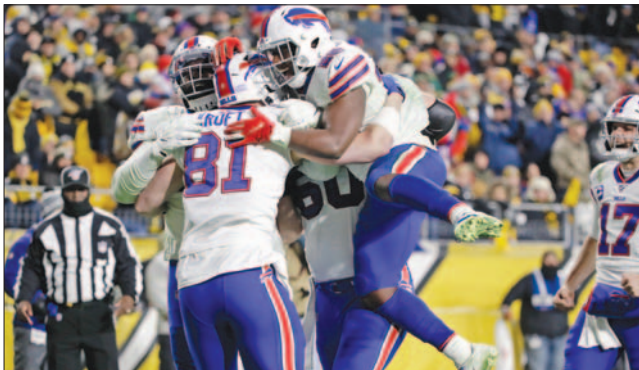
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Tampa Bay, Gay 54.



Rick Scuteri/AP

Cardinals running back Kenyan Drake tries to elude Cleveland's Damarious Randall, left, and Joe Schobert. Drake ran for 137 yards and four touchdowns in Arizona's win Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

NFL



Don Wright/AP

Buffalo Bills tight end Tyler Kroft (81) celebrates with teammates after catching a touchdown pass in his team's 17-10 defeat of the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday in Pittsburgh.

Allen, Bills earn playoff spot

By DAN SCIFO
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Buffalo Bills didn't have many playoff experiences during a recent two-game stretch.

Bills coach Sean McDermott and his quarterback Josh Allen are helping to change the culture in Buffalo.

Allen threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Kroft with 7:55 left and the Bills clinched a playoff spot, beating the Pittsburgh Steelers 17-10 on Sunday night.

"(McDermott) preaches playoff caliber and that's the standard we hold ourselves to," Allen said. "The goal is to get yourself into the playoffs to have a shot at the Super Bowl."

Buffalo (10-4) has done that. The Bills secured their second playoff berth in three seasons under McDermott. Buffalo trailed 10-7, but scored on two possessions in the fourth quarter, as

Allen rallied the Bills for a comeback win for the fifth time this season. Consecutive interceptions by Jordan Poyer and Levi Wallace on Pittsburgh's last two possessions sealed the victory.

The surging Steelers (8-6) had an opportunity to leapfrog the Bills for the top AFC wild-card spot, but Buffalo snapped Pittsburgh's three-game win streak. The Steelers remain the No. 6 seed in the AFC, but have no room for error.

"We will learn from this and move forward to our next opportunity," said Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, a college teammate of McDermott's at William & Mary. "There is scarcity in this business. You only get so many opportunities to state a case for yourself."

Buffalo won for the fourth time in five games and recorded its first 10-win season since 1999. The Bills also beat the Steelers for the second time in Pittsburgh.

Packers slip past Bears in rivals' 200th meeting

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers' wait to see if a long-time foe would help them clinch a playoff spot was a whole lot easier than the lateral-filled final play they had to survive to beat the Chicago Bears in the rivals' 200th game.

Leading by eighth points with just 1 second remaining, Taron Williams fell on Jasper Horstead's fumble at the 2-yard line to end Green Bay's 21-13 victory over the Bears on Sunday.

A few hours later, the Packers were playoff bound, when the Dallas Cowboys beat the Los Angeles Rams.

"I think I blacked out there for a second," Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur said. "There was

so many laterals. I couldn't tell. I was just hoping that someone was going to make the tackle."

With the win, Green Bay (11-3) swept the Bears for the 15th time in the last 26 seasons and the seventh time in 11 seasons. The Packers defeated Chicago 10-3 in the season opener. Green Bay now leads the series 99-95-6.

The Packers improved to 19-5 against the Bears with Rodgers as the starting quarterback. Rodgers completed just 16 of 33 passes for a pedestrian 203 yards.

"I love being 11-3," Rodgers said. "...We just gotta be a little more opportunistic when we have opportunities."

Mitchell Trubisky completed his first five pass attempts for the Bears (7-7) but for only 18 yards.

Bills 17, Steelers 10

Buffalo Pittsburgh 0 7 0 10-17

14-22 3 7 0-6

Second Quarter

Buf.-Allen 1 run (Hauschka kick), 14:22.

Pit.-FG Boswell 49, 11:26.

Third Quarter

Pit.-Conner 11 pass from Hodges (Boswell kick), 11:18.

Fourth Quarter

Buf.-FG Hauschka 36, 12:23.

Buf.-Kroft 14 pass from Allen (Hauschka kick), 7:55.

A-64,659.

Buf Pit

First downs 17 15

Total Net Yards 261 229

Rushes-yards 38-130 15-51

Passing 131 178

Punt Returns 1-12 2-20

Kickoff Returns 4-45 3-53

Interceptions Ret. 4-49 1-33

Comp.-Att.-Int 13-25-1 23-38-4

Sacked-Yards Lost 1-8 1-24

Punts 6-41.5 5-43.0

Fumbles-Lost 0-0 1-1

Penalties-Yards 8-70 6-30

Time of Possession 32:20 27:40

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Buffalo, Singletary 21-87, Allen 7-26, Gore 10-15, Pittsburgh, Conner 8-42, White 2-5, Hodges 1-4, Snell 2-1.

PASSING—Buffalo, Allen 13-25-1-139.

Pittsburgh, Hodges 23-38-4-202.

R-7, Bessley 1-6, Pittsburgh, Washington 5-83, Johnson 5-62, Vannett 5-40, Conner 4-49, Holton 2 (minus 1), Samuels 1-5, Gentry 1-4.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—None.

A-78,256.

Chicago Green Bay 0 3 0 10-13

14-22 0 14 0-21

First Quarter

GB-D.Adams 29 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 4:47.

Second Quarter

Chi.-FG Pineiro 30, 1:45.

Third Quarter

GB-Jones 21 run (Crosby kick), 12:44.

GB-Jones 3 run (Crosby kick), 7:48.

Fourth Quarter

Chi.-FG Pineiro 27, 14:56.

Chi.-Miller 2 pass from Trubisky (Pineiro kick), 8:09.

A-78,256.

Chi GB

First downs 20 12

Total Net Yards 429 292

Rushes-yards 27-86 28-163

Passing 233 192

Punt Returns 1-19 1-12

Kickoff Returns 2-44 2-71

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 16-13-0

Comp.-Att.-Int 29-52-2 16-33-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 3-15 1-11

Fumbles-Lost 4-38 2-7-1

Penalties-Yards 21-11 0-0

Time of Possession 34:22 25:38

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Chicago, Montgomery 14-39, Trubisky 4-29, Cohen 8-28, Patterson 1-0, Green Bay, Jones 13-51, Williams 8-26, Rodgers 3-23.

PASSING—Chicago, Trubisky 29-52-2, Green Bay, Rodgers 16-33-0-203.

RECEIVING—Chicago, Robinson 9-118, Robinson 7-125, Cohen 7-57, Ridley 2-10, Horsted 1-18, Montgomery 1-10, Patterson 1-0, Holtz 1 (minus 1), Green Bay, D.Adams 7-103, Allison 2-19, Lazard 2-14, Kumerow 1-49, Williams 1-7, Williams 1-6, Tonyan 1-5, Graham 1-0.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Texans' late push takes out Titans

Houston holds edge for AFC South crown

By TERESA M. WALKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Houston Texans took charge in the fourth quarter, and now they have control of the AFC South with two games remaining.

The defending division champions are looking for Houston's fourth AFC South title in six years under coach Bill O'Brien. The Titans haven't won this division since 2008, and Mike Vrabel is Tennessee's third coach since.

Carlos Hyde ran for 104 yards and scored a TD with 10:34 left and Ka'imi Fairbairn's 29-yard field goal with 3:26 remaining provided the winning margin as the Texans scored 10 straight points in the fourth quarter to beat the Tennessee Titans 24-21 on Sunday.

"We had to lock in," Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson said. "That's what we did. It came down to that fourth quarter of standing up, getting up and getting a drive in and getting points on the board and defense making a stop. Yeah, it was just something that we definitely didn't want to let it slip out of our hand."

Now the Texans (9-5) must travel home with a short week before going to Tampa Bay on Saturday before hosting the Titans (8-6) again in the regular season finale.

"I don't think we should even think one second about anything other than Tampa Bay, and that should be the whole goal," O'Brien said of the Texans' improved chances of winning the division.

The Texans nearly blew a 14-0 halftime lead with Tennessee intercepting Watson twice inside the Titans 1.

The Titans snapped a four-game win streak with only their second loss in seven games. Now they will need help in the final two games to earn their second

playoff berth in three seasons. "We've just got to be better, man," Titans safety Kevin Byard said. "We'll see them guys again in two weeks, but disappointed."

When the Titans tied it at 14 early in the fourth quarter, the Texans scored 10 straight points. Hyde ran for a 10-yard TD, then Fairbairn's field goal finished Houston's scoring.

"We had to have an answer there," O'Brien said.

Tennessee outgained Houston 432-374. Ryan Tannehill threw for 279 yards, ran for a 1-yard TD, but also was intercepted at the goal line. Derrick Henry snapped a four-game stretch of 100-yard rushing games, finishing with 86 yards on 21 carries.

Texans 24, Titans 21

Houston Tennessee 0 14 0 10-24

14-22 0 7 14-21

Second Quarter

Hou.-Stills 12 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 9:59.

Hou.-Hyde 10 run from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 3:34.

Third Quarter

Ten.-Tannehill 1 run (Succop kick), 5:34.

Fourth Quarter

Ten.-A.Brown 1 pass from Tannehill (Succop kick), 13:35.

Hou.-Hyde 10 run (Fairbairn kick), 10:34.

Hou.-FG Fairbairn 29, 3:26.

Ten.-Lewis 11 pass from Tannehill (Succop kick), 2:04.

A-65,625.

Hou Ten

First downs 374 432

Total Net Yards 351-40 28-163

Rushes-yards 234 269

Passing 0-0 2-19

Punt Returns 2-54 3-55

Kickoff Returns 1-86 2-2

Comp.-Att.-Int 19-27-2 22-37-1

Sacked-Yards Lost 1-9 2-10

Punts 4-46.3 3-48.6

Fumbles-Lost 1-0 4-30

Penalties-Yards 5-27 3-20

Time of Possession 31:20 28:40

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Houston, Hyde 26-104, Watson 7-32, Johnson 2-4, Tennessee, Henry 21-86, D.Smith 1-57, Lewis 3-10, Tannehill 2-10.

PASSING—Houston, Watson 19-27-2, Tannehill 22-37-1.

Kern 0-1-0.

RECEIVING—Houston, Hopkins 6-119, Fuller 2-61, Stills 3-35, D.Johnson 2-19, Akers 2-7, Felix 1-2, Tennessee, A.Brown 8-14, D.Smith 5-60, C.Davis 1-57, Sharpe 2-28, Lewis 1-11, Firkser 1-7, Raymond 1-2, Blosilme 1-0.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS—Tennessee, Succop 45.



JAMES KENNEY/AP

Texans running back Carlos Hyde ran for 104 yards and a touchdown in Houston's 24-21 win over the Titans on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn.

SPORTS



Upset specials
No. 3 Ohio State, No. 17 UNC
knocked off » **College hoops, Page 17**



NFL

'Elite' 8-8?

Cowboys, Eagles victories
ensure NFC East champion
will have at least .500 record

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

The folks at NFL headquarters can relax: The NFC East winner will have at least a .500 record.

That's barring a tie next week when Dallas visits Philadelphia, of course. And in this season of unpredictability — isn't December supposed to be dominated by the better teams? — anything from 55-55 to 3-3 in a blizzard could occur at Lincoln Financial Field.

It's been a year of supreme separation in the NFL. Forget competitive balance, there are a bunch of haves and just as many have-nots in 2019. Which makes it understandable that the league offices would have been under siege had a 7-9 NFC East champion hosted a 12-4 wild card, particularly when teams with winning records don't get into the postseason parade.

With Dallas' stunning turnaround romp past the Rams and Philly's improbable ability to pull out two victories over weak rivals despite being as injury ravaged as any team in football, the 7-9 prospect died. Although 7-8-1 with that equally unlikely tie happening is in the mix.

"Yeah, it's exciting," Eagles



quarterback Carson Wentz says. "The last couple weeks it's been backs against the wall and that doesn't change. We got Dallas coming in and we know what that means to this city each week, regardless of the circumstances. But we also know the circumstances and what's riding on it as

SEE LEAST ON PAGE 22

'Yeah, it's exciting. The last couple weeks it's been backs against the wall, and that doesn't change.'

Carson Wentz
Philadelphia Eagles quarterback



PHOTOS BY ROGER STEINMAN, ABOVE, AND ALEX BRANDON, LEFT/AP

Above: Dallas receiver Tavon Austin, top, celebrates his touchdown during the Cowboys' 44-21 win over the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday. Left: Eagles receiver Greg Ward catches a touchdown pass over Redskins cornerback Josh Norman in Philadelphia's 37-27 win. The Eagles will host the Cowboys next week in an NFC East showdown.

D-backs ink longtime Giants ace Bumgarner » Page 18

